DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Mohamed Salah to leave Liverpool

Egyptian forward calls time with Reds after a trophy laden 9-yr stint

Page 17

CM blames Centre's policies for Karnataka's revenue strain

Page 6

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Forest fire in Turahalli

BENGALURU, DHNS: A fire that spread through the undergrowth of Turahalli forest near Brigade Omega apartments in South Bengaluru was brought under control, thanks to the quick response of local residents and staff.

The department received a fire alert around 7.30 pm and rushed more than 15 staff members to the spot.

"We reached the location and received timely cooperation from residents of the nearby apartments. The forest patch here is mainly composed of eucalyptus trees. The initial assessment suggests that two to three acres of undergrowth foliage has been burnt," said V Ganesh, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru South Division, in a statement to *DH*.

Rama Navami: Meat ban tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has imposed a ban on animal slaughter and the sale of meat on Friday on the occasion of Rama Navami.

The ban order was issued by the Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry Department, GBA.

There are over 3,000 licensed meat shops and three authorised slaughterhouses in the city. However, many unlicensed and illegal shops continue to operate, and the figures may not reflect the actual situation on the ground.

BSWML directs contractors to ensure safety gear for workers

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has directed contractors to ensure that workers wear proper safety gear while collecting waste from households.

In a statement, BSWML said it is mandatory for workers to wear uniforms and use protective equipment such as gloves, gum boots and masks during waste collection. The agency also stressed the importance of households segregating wet, dry and sanitary waste.

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Educators flag gaps in govt's digital use policy for students

Concerns over training, mental health role, feasibility issues

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government's draft policy for responsible digital use among students is being questioned by teachers and psychologists over enforcement challenges and possible resource constraints.

While many teachers remain in favour of limiting internet use among children, others pointed to the unrealistic expectations the draft policy places on them.

"We are expected to identify mental health issues, monitor tech use, and conduct awareness sessions for both students and parents, which is an unfair expectation from teachers.

"Even if the government trains us, we will not be as skilled as a mental health professional to do their job. This leaves a lot of room for misdiagnosis and misinterpretation," said Mamatha Jain, a language teacher at a private school in Electronics City.

While social media literacy can be part of education, its execution must begin at home, said Louis Lopez, principal, Greenwood High.

"The execution is going to be the most difficult part. I have had this conversation with several parents, and they have spoken about the kind of aggressive withdrawal symptoms children exhibit when their internet access is restricted. Many parents are also unable to limit access because when both parents are working, they are dependent on digital devices to reach out to their children."

The teaching faculty also raised concerns over the lack of counsellors in several schools.

"Even if there is a counsellor or a psychologist at the school, they cannot magically solve the child's issues. All relevant institutions and factors need to come together to solve the mental health issues among children.

"Before blaming social media, we need to look at why children are increasingly turning towards the internet. Social media is filling a gap because there is currently no space for children in society," said psychologist Nithya J Rao.

Want to take scientific route: Minister Gundu Rao

Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao said the draft policy has been put out to the public to initiate discussion on the issue.

"We want there to be concern with all parties involved. There must be a back and forth to figure out what works and what does not. There is room for improvement. I want to take the scientific route with this policy," the minister told *DH*.

NITHYA J RAO
Psychologist

"Before blaming social media and the internet, we need to look at why children are increasingly turning towards the internet. Social media is filling a gap because there is currently no space for children in society.

Ricky Rai being harassed over traffic violation: Lawyer

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ricky Rai, son of former underworld don late Muthappa Rai, is being "harassed" by the police over a traffic violation, his lawyer has alleged.

"People ask me every day why Ricky Rai is being treated this way. Will the police treat any other person similarly in a traffic violation case involving rash and negligent driving?" Narayana Swamy G told *DH*.

Ricky Rai

On Monday evening, Rai appeared at the Cubbon Park Traffic Police Station, recorded his statement, and maintained that he was not behind the wheel of the white Lamborghini involved in the alleged drifting incident early Saturday at Anil Kumble Circle on MG Road.

The car was subsequently impounded. Rai was booked under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for rash and negligent driving and endangering human life. He was later granted anticipatory bail by a court.

"Will the police follow the same procedure and register an FIR if any other person is accused of committing the same violation, or is it only in Ricky Rai's case? At most, this was a fineable offence," the lawyer said.

On Tuesday, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) shared a "before and after" video on social media, showing the stunt and the luxury car being seized, with Rai standing next to it and his face blurred.

"The video is defamatory in nature and a mockery of my client. It also shows that he is being targeted," Narayanaswamy alleged.

Repeat stunt

Meanwhile, fresh CCTV footage on Wednesday showed the same car performing a similar drifting manoeuvre around the same time near the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on March 21.

HC: Return seized Lamborghini Huracan to owner

BENGALURU, DHNS

While quashing the case against the petitioner, the court observed that the conduct of the senior motor vehicle inspector — who acted as both complainant and the officer seizing the vehicle — was improper and could not be accepted.

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday directed authorities to return, within a week, a Lamborghini Huracan car seized from Sahakar Nagar in Bengaluru to its owner.

Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the order while partly allowing a petition filed by H1 Car Care, an automobile body parts dealer and the owner of the vehicle. The court also quashed the criminal case registered by the Yelahanka New Town police against the petitioner.

According to the petition, the car was purchased from Hoysala Automotives Pvt Ltd on September 1, 2025, for Rs 3,00,68,729. The vehicle, manufactured in 2021, was first sold in 2022 to Harrsha Infra Cons Pvt Ltd with a temporary registration certificate. The company had sought permission to obtain permanent registration in Telangana.

However, the car was later returned to Hoysala Automotives without being registered in Telangana and was used as a demo vehicle until it was purchased by the petitioner in 2025.

The petitioner stated that all due procedures were followed for registration with the Indiranagar RTO, including payment of applicable taxes. Despite this, on February 7, 2026, senior motor vehicle inspector Ranjith N, along with other officials, allegedly entered the petitioner's garage and seized the vehicle without prior notice.

The police, however, said the vehicle owners had forged documents, causing loss to the state. They registered a case of forgery and cheating and said further investigation would be conducted, including into the role of RTO officials.

While quashing the case against the petitioner, the court observed that the conduct of the senior motor vehicle inspector — who acted as both complainant and the officer seizing the vehicle — was improper and could not be accepted.

The court added the state is free to proceed against other accused persons involved in the alleged forgery or destruction of official documents.

Nimhans launches digital repository to boost mental health research access

Over 2,000 participants' data to aid early intervention studies

BENGALURU, DHNS

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans), in collaboration with Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, has launched CALM-Brain, a digital repository of clinical, neuroimaging, behavioural and genetic data on brain structure and function in persons with psychiatric illnesses like schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, obsessive compulsive disorders, dementia, and substance abuse.

Researchers and clinicians aim to study neuropsychiatric diseases in the Indian context to understand them for early intervention, progression, and underlying causes.

The study also involves testing family members of patients to understand the condition and provide personalised treatment or precision medicine.

This longitudinal dataset incorporates multiple ways of studying brain function in neuropsychiatric patients, including Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (FMRI), Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS), electroencephalogram (EEG), cognitive observations, eye tracking, genetic analyses of blood samples, and clinical assessments.

Writer and author Rohini Nilekani inaugurates 'CALM-Brain' at Nimhans on Wednesday. LS Shashidhara, Director of National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Nimhans In-charge Director Prabha S Chandra, and Dr Pratima Murthy, former director of Nimhans, also seen. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

The dataset is also linked to a biorepository of stem cells, which can be used to conduct biological research in psychiatry to study the origins of severe mental illnesses.

Currently, the repository contains data from over 2,000 persons from 900 families.

Phase-wise patient data-gathering for CALM-Brain began in 2016 by a group of researchers from Nimhans and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) as part of the Accelerator Programme for Discovery in Brain Disorders using Stem Cells (ADBS project), jointly funded by the Department of Biotechnology and Pratiksha Trust.

Scientists said studying large numbers of families with both affected and unaffected members can help identify robust neurocognitive biomarkers.

Dr Pratima Murthy, former director of Nimhans, said, "At the beginning we look at the affected members. Then we see the family members, who do not have any disease right now, but may have characteristics that can develop into a disorder later. We can do early interventions to prohibit people from having disorders."

Experts review findings at mental health survey conclave

BENGALURU, DHNS: A two-day conclave was held at Nimhans recently to discuss the second phase of the National Mental Health Survey (NMHS 2).

The survey's second phase, among the largest exercises globally, is progressing across the country, with field-level data collection completed in 24 states as of mid-March 2026.

Mandated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and implemented by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (Nimhans), the survey seeks to estimate the burden of mental health disorders, study healthcare-seeking patterns, and assess the availability of services and human resources.

Building on the first survey conducted in 2015-2016 across 12 states, NMHS 2 has expanded to cover all 28 states and eight Union Territories. It also includes emerging mental health concerns and focuses on vulnerable populations. The survey spans adults, adolescents, and, on a pilot basis, children.

More than 2.5 lakh interviews have been conducted so far using structured tools adapted into 20 Indian languages. The survey follows a stratified, multistage sampling design to ensure representation across regions and socio-economic groups.

As part of this effort, the two-day conclave was held in Bengaluru, where teams from 20 states and Union Territories that have completed fieldwork met to review data and plan the next phase of analysis.

Addressing the gathering, Nimhans In-charge Director Prabha S Chandra underscored the importance of rigorous training and data quality, noting that the findings would inform policy and help bridge service gaps, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Dean (Research) YC Janardhan Reddy stressed the need for publishing findings and developing region-specific action plans.

Report release

The national report is expected to be released on October 10, coinciding with World Mental Health Day, while state reports are likely to be released by the end of the year.

Namma Metro timings extended for IPL match on Saturday

BENGALURU, DHNS: Namma Metro train services will run for extended hours on Saturday, when Bengaluru hosts the inaugural match of IPL 2026.

Last train timings have been extended from all terminal stations — Challaghatta, Whitefield, Madavara, Silk Institute, RV Road, and Bommasandra.

The last train will depart from Whitefield (Kadugodi) at 12.30 am, Challaghatta at 12.45 am, Silk Institute and Madavara at 12.45 am, Bommasandra at 1 am, and RV Road at 2 am.

From the Majestic station, the last train in all four directions will leave at 1.30 am.

IPL match tickets will include Namma Metro QR codes for two-way travel, either printed on the ticket itself or provided with digital IPL tickets.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has advised fans entering the stadium through gates on Cubbon Park to use the Cubbon Park metro station, while those using the Link Road entry gates should use the MG Road station.

The BMRCL has also made additional parking arrangements at multiple metro stations.

On match days, parking will be available at a flat rate of Rs 30 for two-wheelers and Rs 60 for cars, which will be valid until the end of metro services. Additional parking lots have been created at 44 metro stations, it added.

Corporations facing revenue deficit will receive govt aid: DyCM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said the state government will provide financial assistance to corporations within the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) facing revenue deficit.

Speaking to reporters at Vidhana Soudha, DK Shivakumar, who holds the Bengaluru Development portfolio, said the five corporations will present their own budgets this week.

"We have had detailed discussions with the MLAs of Bengaluru. As the urban governance has been decentralised, the funds from a corporation will be used within the corporation. If a corporation is facing shortages of funds, the state government will assist," he said.

In the 2026-27 budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has set aside Rs 3,000 crore for Bengaluru.

Auto driver held for dumping woman's body at bus stop

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kengeri police has arrested an autorickshaw driver, Basavegowda, 50, from Laggere, after a woman's body was found in a heap of trash behind a bus station in west Bengaluru.

Around 12.30 am on Monday, the deceased, Kempamma (50), was found near Kengeri Upanagara after a train journey from her hometown in Mandya.

Basavegowda, who was in his autorickshaw, knocked her down. Panicked, he took her to a nearby hospital.

The doctors told Basavegowda to take Kempamma to a specialty hospital. On the way, he realised that Kempamma had succumbed to her wounds.

Fearing repercussions, he disposed of her body behind a bus stop in Mylasandra. On Monday morning, passersby found the body and alerted the police.

The body was sent for autopsy, and Kempamma's family was informed of her death.

Investigators analysed CCTV footage and gathered other technical evidence, then zeroed in on Basavegowda.

Former woman rowdy-sheeter accuses cop of harassment

BENGALURU, DHNS: A former rowdy-sheeter in Bengaluru has accused a serving police inspector of harassment and inappropriate behaviour. An inquiry has been ordered.

Yashaswini alias Yashaswini Gowda, 47, on Wednesday filed a petition at the Bengaluru police commissioner's office seeking action against Papanna, a police inspector attached to the Konanakunte station.

"Based on the petition, a preliminary inquiry has been ordered. ACP Jayanagar is inquiring. Further action, if necessary, will be taken based on the preliminary inquiry report," a police officer told *DH*.

During the day, text messages and audio recordings of the purported conversations between Yashaswini and Papanna went viral on social media. They were also telecast widely on local TV channels.

In February, Yashaswini was arrested by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police under the stringent Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act, 2000 (KOCOCA) in connection with a kidnapping case.

51 properties to be taken over by North Corporation over tax dues

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) has decided to take over ownership of 51 properties with pending property tax dues of Rs 1.3 crore.

According to a statement by the corporation, show-cause notices and demands were issued to defaulters, and their details were published on the corporation's official website.

"Repeated intimation has also been given through SMS and by affixing notices at the respective property locations. Despite providing sufficient opportunities, the defaulting properties were subjected to distress sale (auction) as per law," the statement said.

However, multiple auctions by the BNCC did not receive any response and the decision was taken.

"The properties will be deemed as sold to the corporation at a notified value (in line with guideline value). From this amount, all pending property tax dues, penalties, interest, and administrative expenses will be fully recovered. Any remaining balance, after adjusting the dues, will be refunded to the property owners through bank transfer," the statement by BNCC said.

Revenue recovery

The Bengaluru South City Corporation has decided to auction 42 properties for failing to pay property tax dues even after multiple notices. Similarly, 51 properties under the Bengaluru West City Corporation are also set to be auctioned.

In the West Corporation, the properties together have pending dues of Rs 94.92 lakh, and the auction will be held on Friday. In the South Zone, the auction will be held on Thursday.

Seshadripuram Academy of Business Studies, Kengeri, organised the 'Entrepreneurship Awareness Program 2026' under its ED Cell and Incubation Cell in association with MSME. Principal Dr Jayarama, IQAC Coordinator Dr Roopashree, Coordinator Prof Sharada S, and Dr Raghunandan, Director and Professor of Practice at ISB&M, Bengaluru, highlighted practical business ideas and encouraged students to identify everyday opportunities. Sunil S Paladugula, Trainee Engineer at MSME Technology Centre, Bengaluru, explained various MSME schemes, subsidies, and financial support available for aspiring entrepreneurs.

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Bengaluru Thursday, March 26, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 84 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Zubeen died due to 'accidental drowning': Singapore coroner

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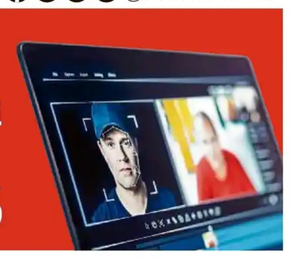
Deepfake interview fraud is now real, threat to recruiting firms P.15



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Karnataka to come up with safety protocols for zoo vets P.5

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S&P Global raises India GDP growth forecast P.15

World

Digital addiction: Meta, YouTube found liable P.14

Iran rejects US truce plan, issues counterproposal

DEEPENING CRISIS: US threatens to hit harder; Pak acts as mediator

DUBAI, AGENCIES

Iran on Wednesday dismissed an American plan to pause the war in West Asia and launched more attacks on Israel and Gulf Arab countries.

As Tehran took a defiant posture, the US threatened to hit it "harder". "President Trump does not bluff and he is prepared to unleash hell," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said. "If they fail to understand that they have been defeated militarily, President Trump will ensure they are hit harder than they have ever been hit before."

Iran's defiance came as Israel launched airstrikes on Tehran and as the US deployed paratroopers and more Marines to the region.

Iranian state television's English-language broadcaster, Press TV, quoted an anonymous official as saying Iran rejected America's ceasefire proposal. Press TV's report came after Pakistan transmitted the proposal to Iran.

"Iran will end the war when it decides to do so and when its own conditions are met," Press TV quoted the official as saying.

Earlier, two officials from Pakistan described the 15-point US proposal broadly, saying it addressed sanctions relief, a rollback of Iran's nuclear program, limits on missiles and reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

Some of those points were nonstarters in negotiations before the war: Iran has insisted it won't discuss its ballistic missile programme or its support of regional militias. And its ability to control passage through the Strait of Hormuz represents one of its biggest strategic advantages.

Press TV cited an Iranian five-point plan for a ceasefire from the official who rejected the US proposal.

That plan included a halt to killings of its officials, means to make sure no other war is waged against it, reparations for the war, the end of hostilities and Iran's "exercise of sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz".

▸ Ceasefire, Page 6

A plume of smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike on the eastern outskirts of Tyre, southern Lebanon. AFP

WEST ASIA ON BOIL

- Israeli military says it struck two naval cruise missile production facilities in Tehran
- International Energy Agency says "ready to move forward" with additional release of oil reserves
- Iran fires missiles and drones at military bases hosting US forces in Kuwait, Jordan and Bahrain, as well as targets in Israel
- Oil prices ease slightly; Brent crude at $100.42 a barrel
- Drones hit a fuel tank, spark fire at Kuwait airport

7 killed after a strike in Iraq targeted the former paramilitary coalition

Iran's military says its cruise missiles fired at the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier group, "forced it to change its position".

No shortage of fuel: Govt

Amid reports of long queues at fuel pumps and panic buying in many parts of the country, the Centre on Wednesday assured that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, or LPG in the country and urged citizens not to believe rumours circulating on social media.

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India not a 'dalaal' nation like Pak: Govt at all-party meet

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Dismissing Pakistan's efforts as a mediator between Iran and the US, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday told leaders at an all-party meeting that India does not view itself as a "dalaal" (broker) like Pakistan.

"There is nothing new in Pakistan's mediation efforts, as that country has been 'used' by the US since 1981," Jaishankar said during the all-party meeting convened by the government to discuss the West Asia crisis.

Jaishankar was responding to a question by Mukul Wasnik on Pakistan's role as a mediator.

The government said that Modi had made it clear to Trump that India "wants to see the war coming to an end" as it is "affecting everyone."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired the meeting, and it was attended by Home Minister Amit Shah, Kiren Rijiju, Nirmala Sitharaman, JP Nadda, among others.

▸ All-party meet 6

Foreign fund 'misuse': New Bill tabled to take over NGO assets

Oppn terms new Bill dangerous; govt says it aims at 'transparency'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

A Bill seeking to empower a "designated authority" to take over, manage or dispose of assets created out of foreign funds by an NGO that lose their licence was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. The Union government said that those engaged in forced and illegal religious conversions using foreign donations will face action.

Key proposals

- A designated authority will oversee foreign contributions and upon cancellation/surrender of an FCRA licence, take control of assets
- Comprehensive framework for vesting, supervision, management and disposal of foreign contributions and assets
- The Bill proposes to make key functionaries liable for offences under the FCRA, unless they can provide evidence of lack of knowledge, or due diligence

Amid three Opposition MPs raising objections to the introduction of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said that the government will not tolerate any misutilisation of foreign funding and will take strong action against such elements.

Insisting that the Bill aims to enhance transparency and ensure proper utilisation of the foreign funds, Rai countered the charges that the proposed law is "dangerous".

He said that it is "indeed dangerous for those who engage in forced, illegal religious conversion using foreign funds, as well as to individuals who abuse foreign funding for personal gain." Rai went on to add that there is nothing to worry for genuine operators who go by the Constitution and law of the land and work for the betterment of the country.

▸ Bill, Page 6

Cabinet nod for new climate action plans

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the next set of climate action plans that includes 47% reduction of emission intensity of the GDP by 2035 and doubling of the carbon sink by expanding the tree and forest cover.

The new NDC (nationally determined contribution) under the Paris agreement also has a target to achieve 60% of cumulative installed electric capacity from non-fossil sources.

The new action plans are to be achieved between 2031 and 2035.

While three of the eight nationally determined contributions have specific targets to achieve, the remaining have no such deadlines.

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Annual pain: B'luru water bills to rise by 3%

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Come April 1, monthly water bills in Bengaluru are set to go up by 3%.

Exactly a year after increasing the water tariff by a whopping 32%, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has decided to adopt a new system where the water bill goes up by 3% every year to "offset the increase in expenditure". This is a major policy shift for the water board with some political leaders terming the automatic increase "anti-people" while demanding its immediate withdrawal.

In the notification issued last year, BWSSB had revised water and sanitation tariff for all consumers, a decision it took after 12 years following an approval of the state government. In the same notification, BWSSB had also announced that a 3% automatic annual increase in water tariffs will be rolled out on April 1 every year.

Speaking to *DH*, BWSSB chairman Dr Ramprasat Manohar V, confirmed that the 3% increase would come into effect on April 1. The Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission, he said, had recommended a 5% automatic annual increase in water tariff every year. "The water board has reduced the increase to 3%," he said.

The hike, Manohar said, is being enforced to tame inflation.

▸ Water bills, Page 6

Govt asks banks to freeze KSOU accounts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has asked banks to freeze the accounts of Karnataka State Open University (KSOU). The order stated that "the measure has been taken following the prima facie financial irregularities at the university which have come to the notice of the government".

This action came amid the row over the varsity's plan to organise a lecture series in memory of RSS ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya and the subsequent cancellation of the event by the government.

Details on Page 2

Hyderabad beats B'luru in 'liveability' index: New report

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Hyderabad has beaten Bengaluru to emerge as the most "liveable" metropolitan city in India, according to a new report that studied 15 metrics to capture overall ease of living in eight different cities.

While factors such as housing and diversity pushed the rankings for Hyderabad, commute time and infrastructure pulled Bengaluru down to the second place.

These findings were part of the report 'WeAreCity 2026' published by Unboxing BLR, a not-for-profit organisation based in Bengaluru.

The data report was released during the Indiaspora Global AI summit on Wednesday.

The report reveals how the two southern tech hubs are now powering over half of India's urban growth momentum by reshaping jobs, consumption, mobility and the future of Indian cities.

Called 'City Indices', the 159-page report carries a section which ranks eight cities on ease of living using metrics such as commute, diversity, going-out, housing and infrastructure and lastly weather.

Hyderabad topped the chart overall, followed by Bengaluru and Kolkata.

While Ahmedabad featured at the bottom, Chennai, Delhi NCR, Pune and Greater Mumbai were ranked fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh, respectively.

Interestingly, the Karnataka capital has emerged as a tale of extremes.

▸ Hyderabad, Page 6

Age verification must for entry and serving: HC tells breweries

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court has said that breweries and similar establishments must adhere to rigorous age verification protocols at the entrance to the establishment and follow it up with further verification when liquor is ordered by persons who appear underage.

When minors gain entry and order for intoxicants, the management of such establishments cannot wash their hands of responsibility, Justice M Nagaprasanna said while refusing to quash proceedings against a partner in a brewery joint. The case pertains to the death of a minor boy in January.

The court noted that the Excise Act is not confined merely to the act of sale of alcohol.

Details on Page 2

SBI
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DANGEROUS DRIVING

Shortcut to disaster: One-way violations spike

HIGH-VIOLATION ZONES

Traffic DCPs across divisions identified several areas

East Division	North Division	South Division
New Thippasandra Road (near Jeevan Bima Nagar) and Infantry Road	Ballari Road, Tumakuru Road, and inner lanes of RT Nagar and Sanjaynagar	Madiwala Market Road and 14th Main HSR Layout.

Number of one-way violation cases

2023	1,44,290
2024	1,87,267
2025	3,02,962
2026	1,35,229

*till date

DH SPECIAL

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

In August 2025, a 31-year-old mother of two was flung off a flyover near the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), leading to her instant death, after a car, driven recklessly on the wrong side, crashed into her scooter. More recently, in early 2026, four people were injured near the Chandapura bridge on NH-44 when multiple vehicles collided following a similar wrong-way entry.

For many Bengalureans, the "one-way" sign has become a mere suggestion rather than a rule. Despite intensified crackdowns and awareness campaigns, driving against the flow of traffic has seen a staggering spike in the city, with recorded cases more than doubling between 2023 and 2025.

According to data released by the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP), the city recorded 1,44,290 cases in 2023. This number surged to 3,02,962 in 2025. The trend shows no signs of decline in 2026, with 1,35,229 cases already booked in the first quarter alone.

Joint commissioner of police (Traffic), Karthik Reddy, attributed the rise to a dangerous pursuit of convenience. "People take shortcuts for convenience, leading to accidents. It not only endangers the violator's life but also that of other road users," Reddy told *DH*.

▸ Violations, Page 6

Priyank for 'moral hackathon' to verify EVMs

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge requested the Election Commission to allow a 'moral hackathon' in the presence of Supreme Court judges, with experts, to verify EVMs. Introducing the Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Amendment Bill in the Legislative Council for using ballot papers in the local body elections, he said advanced nations have doubts about EVM reliability. The Commission should provide a platform to demonstrate how EVMs are hacked in different places. The bill was passed amid the opposition walkout.

Cars to pay Rs 355 for one-way travel on B'luru-Mysuru highway from Apr 1

Toll rates at 62 plazas revised, hike in line with wholesale price index

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU DHNS

Starting April 1, the one-way toll for cars travelling to Mysuru on the access-controlled highway will be increased to Rs 355, with a 3% increase coming into effect.

The increase in toll rates is a part of an annual inflation-related hike. Overall, rates at about 62 toll plazas across the state have been revised as part of the exercise. The toll rates are increased in line with the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

Cars, jeeps and vans travelling to Mysuru will pay Rs 180 at Kaniminike and Sheshagirihalli toll plazas, and Rs 175 at Gananguru toll plaza, compared to the earlier rate of Rs 175 and Rs 170, respectively.

The rates for minibuses and light commercial vehicles (LCVs) have increased from Rs 555 to Rs 565. Rates for trucks, buses and heavier vehicles have also been increased.

The increase in toll rates is a part of an annual inflation-related hike. Overall, rates at about 62 toll plazas across the state have been revised as part of the exercise. The toll rates are increased in line with the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

Airport road

At the airport toll plaza in Sadahalli, car toll remains steady at Rs 120, but the LCV category will pay Rs 190, up by Rs 5. Charges for trucks and buses have been raised to Rs 375, while multi-axle vehicles will now pay Rs 575, reflecting a Rs 15 hike.

Oversized vehicles will see one of the steeper increases, from Rs 725 to Rs 745. Toll charges for LCV and heavier vehicle categories at Bagepalli and Gadduru toll plazas on the highway to Hyderabad have also seen proportionate hikes, while charges for cars, jeeps and vans remain the same.

Toll charges for cars on the Bengaluru Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) have also been hiked by 5-6%, said an official from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Cars and vans will now pay Rs 85, compared to the earlier fee of Rs 80, at Nullur toll plaza (Dodaballapur Bypass to Hoskote), and Rs 110 instead of Rs 105 at the Hullikunte toll plaza (Dobbspet to Dodaballapur Bypass), with proportionate hikes across larger vehicle categories. The revised toll charges will be applicable till March 31, 2027.

Fee at the Electronics City toll plaza is set to be revised in July, the official added. Additionally, a few more toll plazas are expected to see fare revisions later in the year.

LPG crisis: Households still not out of woods

Commercial users worried over quota allotment

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Though the LPG crisis in the city is easing a little, many households are still seeing a delay in the supply of gas cylinders.

While bookings are going through, delivery is taking at least a week.

Multiple gas supply agencies *DH* spoke to said the waiting time was at least one week. A few of them said it could go up to 15 days.

"While panic booking has come under control, people are still worried. Many are coming over to the agencies just two days after booking to enquire when their cylinders will be delivered," the manager of one of the agencies in Yelahanka said.

Many agency offices are receiving numerous calls and crowds enquiring about cylinder delivery.

The distributors have urged the public to wait patiently for at least a week before approaching them. The government has agreed to meet close to 33% of the demand of hoteliers.

However, this is subject to registration with GAIL (Gas Authority of India Limited) and there is confusion around it.

"Though all of us had a connection, many of them used to directly ask sub agents or delivery agents to get them cylinders. There were informal adjustments and hence, the number of orders or their use would not have been recorded officially. Now, the government has agreed to meet 33% of the demand of all hoteliers. Official data and the on-ground needs do not match for a few of them and this is creating some confusion," one of the hoteliers said.

P C Rao from the Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association (BBHA) acknowledged that such informal adjustments were creating confusion.

"We are slowly clearing out by holding discussions. Many are registering with GAIL," he said.

Similar is the case with paying guest (PG) accommodations.

Many had informal tie-ups with the delivery agents and are not sure how many cylinders they will be able to claim now.

"We are trying to collect information and register with GAIL. However, there are some confusions. For now, many of us have shifted to firewood cooking," said Aruna Kumar D T, president, PG Owners Welfare Association.

Not many hotels hike prices

Unable to keep kitchens running, a few hotels in the city have increased the prices of their menu items. The prices of a few items have increased between Rs 2 and Rs 5.

The owner of a well-known hotel in West Bengaluru, which has increased the price of masala dosa by Rs 5, said they were finding it difficult to operate kitchens at existing prices.

"We are buying gas cylinders at higher prices in black market and it is difficult to get it as well. We were thinking of increasing prices even before this crisis, since operational costs had gone up. Now, it is impossible to operate at old rates," the owner said.

However, many hoteliers were still mulling it and only a handful of them have increased rates, Rao said.

"We do not want to burden customers. Hence, a majority of the hoteliers have put price hike on hold," he said.

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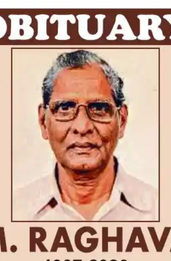

M. RAGHAVA
1937-2026
Passed away on 25th March 2026 in Bengaluru.
Fondly remembered by family, friends, near and dear.

HC quashes BMTF probe against Sri Sri

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court on Wednesday quashed the investigation against spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravishankar in a public land encroachment case registered by the BMTF. Justice M Nagaprasanna allowed his petition, noting the absence of allegations. The FIR, filed under Section 192A of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, had named him accused number one following a PIL on encroachments in Kaggalipura. The court observed that Ravishankar neither owned the land nor was linked to the alleged encroachment. Earlier, in January 2026, the court had stayed the probe, citing lack of prima facie evidence against him.

Denying permission for IPL matches could give B'luru 'a bad name': Home minister

Memorial unveiled for fans killed in stampede at stadium last year

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara, Shanthinagar MLA N A Haris, KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad and Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh at the unveiling of the memorial for fans killed during the stampede at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru in June 2025, on Wednesday.

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday unveiled a memorial built outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in memory of the 11 cricket fans who lost their lives in a stampede during the RCB victory celebrations on June 4 last year.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, he said that the state government was satisfied with the short-term measures taken by the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) and the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) for the safe and smooth conduct of matches at the stadium, in line with the recommendations of the Justice John Michael D'Cunha Commission.

"The stampede deaths are a bitter memory. The KSCA has built this memory for the fans who lost their lives. Government inspections found the short-term measures satisfactory, and we have allowed matches at the stadium. The KSCA will implement the long-term measures suggested by the Justice D'Cunha Commission in due course and the government will monitor the progress," he said.

Parameshwara stressed that denying permission for matches at the stadium could give Bengaluru "a bad name".

He warned that the KSCA and the RCB would be held responsible for any untoward incident, adding that police would deploy additional force to maintain order.

Shanthinagar MLA N A Haris, MLC D S Arun Kumar, Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) president Venkatesh Prasad, RCB CEO Rajesh Menon, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, and KSCA office-bearers Santosh Menon, Sujith Somasundar, Vinay Mrutyunjaya, among others, were present.

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My clients are negotiating to purchase the Schedule immovable Property from its Joint Co-owners **Mr. L. SELVAM GEORGE** and **Mrs . VASANTHI GEORGE.**
If any individual/s or financial institution/s having any Rights, Claims, Title, Interest or Subsisting charges over the same, it shall be lodged within 10 (Ten) days from the date of Publication of this Notice with Documentary Evidence with the undersigned.
SCHEDULE
Site No. 50 (earlier khatha No. 1123, BBMP khatha No. 1143/1123/50) formed out of Residentially Converted Survey Number 3, Situated at Junnasandra Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, and presently bearing Bruhuth Bangalore Nagara Palike e-khatha No. 1007852239, Bangalore City and situated in the layout named as "RAINBOW RESIDENCY".
Measuring : **East by :** 99.6 feet and **West by :** 99.6 feet, **North by:** 50.2 feet and **South by :** 50 feet, in all totally measuring – 4,962 sq. feet and bounded on : **East by -** Site No. 49, **West by-** Private Road, **North by –** Site No. 51, **South by** – Private Road
S. ANANTHA RAMA REDDY,
Advocate & Consultant, No. 12, 3rd Floor, 10th Cross, (Opp. St. Martha's Hospital), Cubbonpet, Bangalore–560 002, email id: anantharedddy2006@hotmail.com
Mobile - 9845049944
Bangalore. Date : 26-03-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify the Public in general and whom so ever concern that I **Sri.V.N.Subramanian** S/o V.R. Nachimuthu, R/at No.15, Gandhinagar Clony, 2nd Street, Surampatti Post, Erode- 638 009, Tamilnadu, have purchase the Schedule Property from one V.Shashi Kumar S/o late R.Venkatesh under regd. Sale deed dated: 19/02/2025 registered as Document No.JGN-1-07988-24-25 before the Sub- Registrar, Basavanagudi, Jigani (Bannargatta Anekal Taluk) and ever since the date of purchase I am the absolute owner in possession of Schedule Property with absolute right, title and interest over the Schedule Property.
And if any person/s enters into any conveyance or deals with the Schedule Property in any manner or executes any Power of Attorney or enters into any Agreements in respect of the Schedule Property, or trespasses over the Schedule Property then he/they shall be solely liable for all the costs and consequences thereof.
It is further informed that, if any person/s has/have any manner of objections or queries in respect of the Schedule Property, they are hereby notified to lodged their objections or queries before my Manager Sri. JYOTHII RAJESH .C, Mobile No. 9994619400.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land measuring 0-35.12 Guntas in old Sy.no.196/1, subsequent Sy.No.196/1B, and present Sy.No.196/5, situated at Koppa Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on :- East by : Sy.No.196/2 belongs to V.Shashikumar, West by: Sy.No.196/1A belongs to V Shashikumar, North by : South by : Thoti Inamthi Land,
Sri.V.N.Subramanian
S/o V.R. Nachimuthu,
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Subject: English, Social, Hindi - B.A, M.A / B.Ed
Science - B.Sc, M.Sc / B.Ed Music, Dance - Senior Grade
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KSOU violates order, hosts conference; govt freezes bank accounts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government, on Wednesday, requested banks to freeze the accounts of Mysuru-based Karnataka State Open University (KSOU).

The principal secretary to the higher education department has communicated via email to the authorities of State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank, where KSOU has its accounts, and requested banks to freeze them.

The action comes a day after the reply by KSOU vice chancellor Sharanappa Halse to the notice by the government, questioning the university for hosting 'Ekatma Manava Darshan,' Bharat's world view, an international academic conference organised by the Karnataka unit of Prajna Pravah and Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation from March 25 to 27 on its campus.

The lecture series is organised to mark 60 years of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's philosophy of 'integral humanism' (Ekatma Manavavad).

As the reply by the VC was not satisfactory, the department issued an order cancelling the event, late in the evening on Tuesday.

"In order to safeguard public funds and ensure integrity of the inquiry by the one-man committee constituted by the Governor, you are hereby requested to freeze (debit freeze) all bank accounts of the university, including linked accounts, till further orders," the order said.

It said credits may be permitted, but no change in account operations shall be allowed.

"The measure has been taken following prima facie financial irregularities at the university," the communication said.

"It is not right to have permitted a private organisation to hold an event at a time when the commission is probing the lack of discipline in administrative matters and financial irregularities in KSOU. If permission is given to hold such private events, it may indirectly influence the probe. Taking unilateral decisions, forgetting the objectives of the university, embarrasses the government," it says.

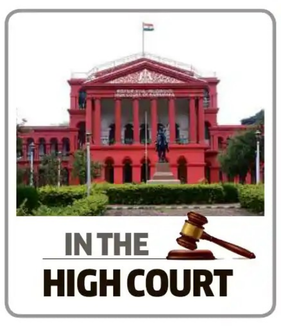
Congress' Ramesh Babu had raised the issue in the Legislative Council recently and demanded action against the VC for hosting the event on the campus and violating protocol.

Higher Education Minister M C Sudhakar had replied that the government would not allow KSOU to hold the lecture series.

Breweries must initiate rigorous age verification protocols, rules HC

'Protection of youth not merely a statutory mandate, it is moral imperative'

BENGALURU, DHNS



The Karnataka high court has said that breweries and similar establishments must initiate rigorous age verification protocols, be it through Aadhar or other valid identification, at threshold of entry and further verification should follow when liquor is ordered by persons who appear youthful or underage.

"Age verification cannot be a perfunctory ritual; it must be a living practice by display of conspicuous warnings by insistence upon documentary proof. When minors gain entry and order for intoxicants, whether overtly served or covertly consumed, the Management of such Establishments cannot show their hands off, in indifference. The protection of youth is not merely a statutory mandate, it is a moral imperative. The Managements of the places would be held accountable for any lapses," Justice M Nagaprasanna said while refusing to quash proceedings against V Chitti Babu, a partner in Legacy Brewing Company, a brewery joint in Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru.

The matter pertains to the death of a 15-year-old boy on January 31, 2026. The boy had been to Legacy Brewing Company in Rajarajeshwarinagar along with his friends. Later in the night, the boy jumped to his death from the 7th floor apartment in Banashankari 5th stage.

During the investigation, the police found that the boy had stayed in the brewery up to 6.30 pm and the post-mortem report indicated that he had consumed alcohol. The police registered a suo motu FIR for offences under section 36(1)(g) of the Excise Act and section 77 of the Juvenile Act.

Challenging this, the petitioner contended that the pub staff had served only food, a water bottle and that the boys had brought liquor in the bag surreptitiously and had drunk. On the other hand, the prosecution submitted that while it is an admitted fact that the boy was at the brewery till 6.30 pm, whether he has gone to the house directly or not is a matter of investigation.

The court noted that section 36 (1)(g) of the Excise Act is not confined merely to the act of sale, it extends equally to tolerance and permission, passive or active. "The legislative intent is clear. A licensee having been entrusted with the privilege of dealing in intoxicants bears a corresponding and higher duty of vigilance. The law casts upon him, not merely an obligation to refrain from serving minors, but also a duty to ensure that minors do not remain in the premises where intoxicants are sold or manufactured," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court also pointed out that section 77 of the Juvenile Justice Act declares that whoever gives or causes to be given to any child intoxicating liquor, narcotic drug, tobacco product or a psychotropic substance, except under medical prescription, the rigour of the provision is unmistakable.

"If minors could carry intoxicants inside, evade detection and consume them unchecked demands scrutiny. The scrutiny - investigation. Investigation therefore becomes imperative to ascertain how underage individuals gained entry without age verification; whether any mechanism existed to scrutinize identification of documents; whether supervisory safeguards were in place and whether statutory obligations cast upon the licensee were discharged with the vigilance the law demands," the court said.

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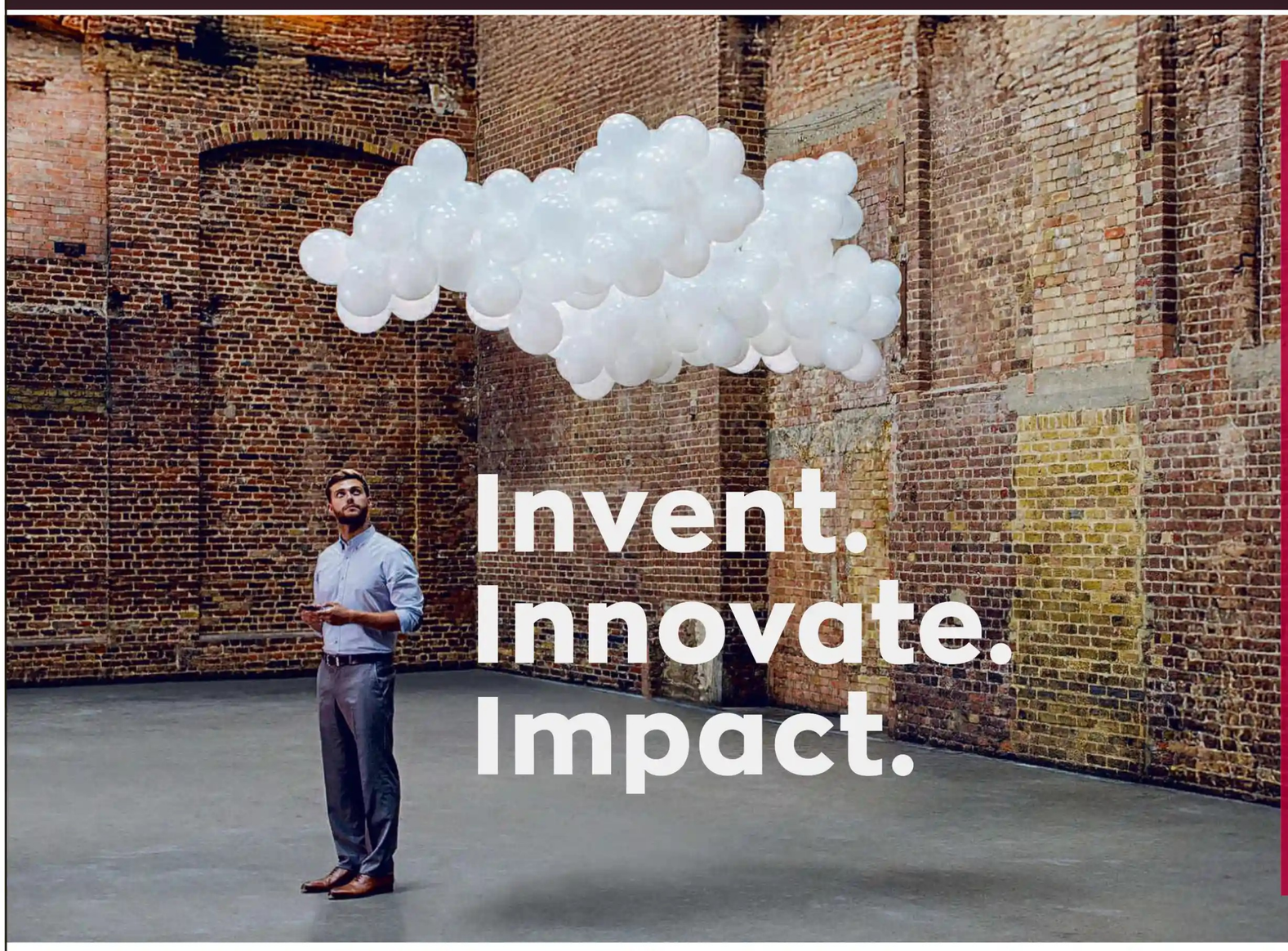

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WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR TEACHERS

A Walk–in-Interview will be conducted on 28.03.2026 (Saturday) from 9.00 a.m to 11.30 a.m. for the following posts on contractual basis:

PGT (Physics), TGT (Science) TGT (Maths),.Primary Teachers, Educational Counsellor, ATL Instructor, Coach (Art&Craft)

Candidates should register in the portal :
https://samvida-sathi.kvs.gov.in

NOTE :

Details of eligibility, educational qualification, remuneration and Interview Date and Time are put up in the School Website: https://iiscbangalore.kvs.ac.in. Interested eligible candidates report to Vidyalaya as per schedule given in the website along with duly filled Biodata form with all original documents / certificates and one set of self-attested xerox copies of all documents.

No TA/DA will be paid for attending Interview.

PRINCIPAL

HIRING OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT FOR THE FY 2026-27 & 2027-28

1. Bids are invited for hiring of CA for audit of twenty-seven (27) accts for FY 2026-27 & 2027-28.

   Interested pers/firms are requested to quote the rates incl GST and forward to this office alongwith requisite documents by 11 Apr 2026.

2. In case of any query, contact Accounts Office, ASC Centre (S) on tele No : 080-29900365.

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Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel – I, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand
Phone. 0651-2401040, 2401067 Fax.- 0651-2401040

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE
(Ref. No. – JAP-IT/CCTV/PS/01/2026)

The tender for "Selection of Service Provider for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of CCTV Based Surveillance System at Police Stations Buildings in Jharkhand" (Ref. No. – JAP-IT/CCTV/PS/01/2026, including all corrigendums published) is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable reasons.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
(PR-372580)

PR 376039 Information Technology (25-26)_D JAP-IT

S.E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No.: e-Tender/2026/10, Date: 24.03.2026. For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-tender for the following works **before 15.00 hrs.** on the date mentioned against items and will be **opened at 15.30 hrs. Sl.No. 1. Tender No.: E-KGP-SOUTH-08-2026. Description of work:** Standardisation of different type of Engineering Board on track in Kharagpur-Bhadrak, Rupsa Jn-Bangriposi & Balasore-Gopinathpur Nilgiri section under Sr.DEN (South)/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,43,63,061.24. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,71,800. **Sl.No. 2. Tender No.: E-KGP-South-09-2026. Description of work:** River Bed Mapping of Bridge No. 215 UP & DN and Br. No. 263 UP & DN in Kharagpur-Bhadrak section under Sr. DEN (South)/Kharagpur. (3rd call). **Tender Value:** ₹ 12,20,482.40. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 24,400. **Sl.No. 3. Tender No.: E-KGP-EAST-10-2026. Description of work:** Execution of works of 1) Construction of Office of ADSTE/PKU at Panskura. 2) Panskura:- Construction of Type IV Quarter of ASTE at Panskura under the jurisdiction of DEN/EAST/Kharagpur under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/East/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,43,21,549.65. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,21,600. **Sl.No. 4. Tender No.: E-KGP-EAST-13-2026. Description of work:** Improvement & Standardization of Over Run Line, Dead End (9 Nos) and Sand Hump (10 Nos) under ADEN/Shalimar. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,56,74,669.33. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,28,400. **Sl.No. 5. Tender No.: E-KGP-EAST-14-2026. Description of work:** Construction of Precast Central drain between main lines under the jurisdiction of DEN/East/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,36,70,661.60. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,68,400. **Sl.No. 6. Tender No.: E-KGP-EAST-16-2026. Description of work:** Conversion of DANSI(PH) into Block station having 2 loop lines. under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/EAST/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 9,01,91,240.40. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 6,01,000. **Tender document Cost:** ₹ 0 (for Sl.No. 1 to 6 each). **Date of opening:** 02.04.2026 (for Sl.No. 1), 09.04.2026 (for Sl.No. 2, 3, 4 & 5 each) and 14.04.2026 (for Sl.No. 6). **Completion Period of the work:** 12 months for each. **Bidding start date:** For Sl. No. 1 : From 19.03.2026 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 02.04.2026. For Sl. No. 2, 3, 4 & 5 : from 26.03.2026 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 09.04.2026. For Sl. No. 6: From 31.03.2026 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 14.04.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. **(PR-1343)**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. 05/SBC/26 of 17-03-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru** : Chikkabanavara - Hassan section: Balance work for extension of High-level platform at Nelamangala (NMGA) station Platform-1 by 140 mtr, Kunigal (KIGL) station Platform-1,2 and 3 by 20 meter, Yediyuru (YY) station platform 1,2 and 3 by 40 meters in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Kunigal subdivision. **Sub Work - II: Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru**: Chikkabanavara-Hassan section: Balance work for extension of platform at BG Nagar (BGNR) station platform-1, 2 by 16 meters, Hirisave (HISE) platform 1,2 and 3 by 20 meters, Shravanabelagola (SBGA) station Platform 1,2 and 3 by 138 meters, Channarayapatna (CNPA) Platform 1,2 and 3 by 140 mtr and compound wall at channarayapatna station in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Kunigal sub-division. Maintenance period is 12 months	**Rs. 2,51,99,792/-**
2	**Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru-Section** : Proposed extension of Foot Over Bridge at Karuvalli (KVLR) station in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Dharmapuri Section. (Size of Gangway 1 x 3.0m x 27.00m, Staircase-1x27.00m x 3.0m+1 x 27.0m x 3.0m)). Maintenance period is 12 months	**Rs. 1,88,03,571/-**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 09-04-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination Bengaluru

PUB/1018/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
AUCTION PROGRAMME NOTICE No: S/XIII/01/2026-27

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Following is the Schedule of E-Auction to be held during months of April, May & June - 2026 for Sale of on-line scrap, Serviceable Locomotives and Depot Scrap under the jurisdictions of General Stores Depot/Hubballi and Mechanical General Stores Depot / Ashokapuram Depots and Hubballi, Mysuru and Bengaluru Divisions of South Western Railway.

Types of Auction	Venue	April 2026		May 2026		June 2026	
E-Auction	General Stores Depot Hubballi	7th	21st	5th	19th	3rd	16th
	Mechanical General Stores Depot, Ashokapuram (Mysuru)	8th	22nd	6th	20th	4th	18th
	Hubballi Division	9th	23rd	7th	21st	9th	23rd
	Bengaluru Division	14th	28th	12th	26th	10th	24th
	Mysuru Division	16th	29th	14th	27th	11th	25th

Sale of serviceable locomotives:Following Thirteen number Condemned, Surplus, Under Aged and Serviceable Locomotives are in E-Auction Catalogue of Senior Divisional Material Manager/Bengaluru viz WDG3A- 13056,13118, 13243, 13249, 13263, 13268, 13299, 13270, 13331 & 14796, WDM3A- 14082, 14084, 16670. Nine more locomotives will be included in forthcomming auction (WDM3A : 14007, 14019, 14077, 16585, 16586, 16876, & WDG3A:13273, 13285, 13297)

You all are requerted to actively participate in the above scheduled e-Auction. For details please contact Deputy Chief Material Manager/General Stores Depot/Hubballi (0836-2363466/ 9731668760), Deputy Chief Material Manager /Mechanical General Stores Depot/Ashokapuram (0821-2480171/ 9731665756), Senior Divisional Material Manager/Hubballi (0836-2363497/ 9731668750), Senior Divisional Material Manager/Bengaluru (080-22873081/ 9731666750), Senior Divisional Material Manager/Mysuru (0821-2420817/ 9731667750)

For Locos Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer/DSL/Krishnarajapurm-9731666451 & SSE/DSL/Krishnarajapurm-9731666482

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in/E-auction

PUB/1010/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Deputy Chief Material Manager/Constuction/HQ/Hubballi**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Partial cancellation of trains

BENGALURU, DHNS: Southern Railway will partially cancel the following trains due to traffic block for converting Bridge 154 from pipe type to box type at the Tirupati yard.

Train 22618 SMVT Bengaluru-Tirupati Tri-weekly Superfast Exp will short-terminate at Chandragiri instead of Tirupati on April 27, 29 and May 2. Train 22617 Tirupati-SMVT Bengaluru Tri-weekly Superfast Exp will originate from Chandragiri instead of Tirupati.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
SPEED RUN BETWEEN TUMAKURU - URUKERE SECTION & URUKERE - THIMMARAJANAHALLI SECTION

The Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, New Delhi will conduct speed trial run between Thimmarajanahalli-Urukere-Tumakuru as part of Statutory Inspection of CCRS inspection between Tumakuru-Urukere-Thimmarajanahalli New line section as part of Tumakuru Davanagere New Broad Gauge line on 26th March-2026 and 27th March 2026. Public Should not walk through or cross the track. Opening of the New line for public carriage will be after the certification of Commissioner of Railway Safety.

PUB/1017/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Chief Engineer-III, Construction / Bengaluru Cantonment**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Woman stabbed by brother over domestic dispute

BENGALURU, DHNS

An elderly woman suffered serious injuries after she was attacked and stabbed at home near Adugodi on Wednesday morning.

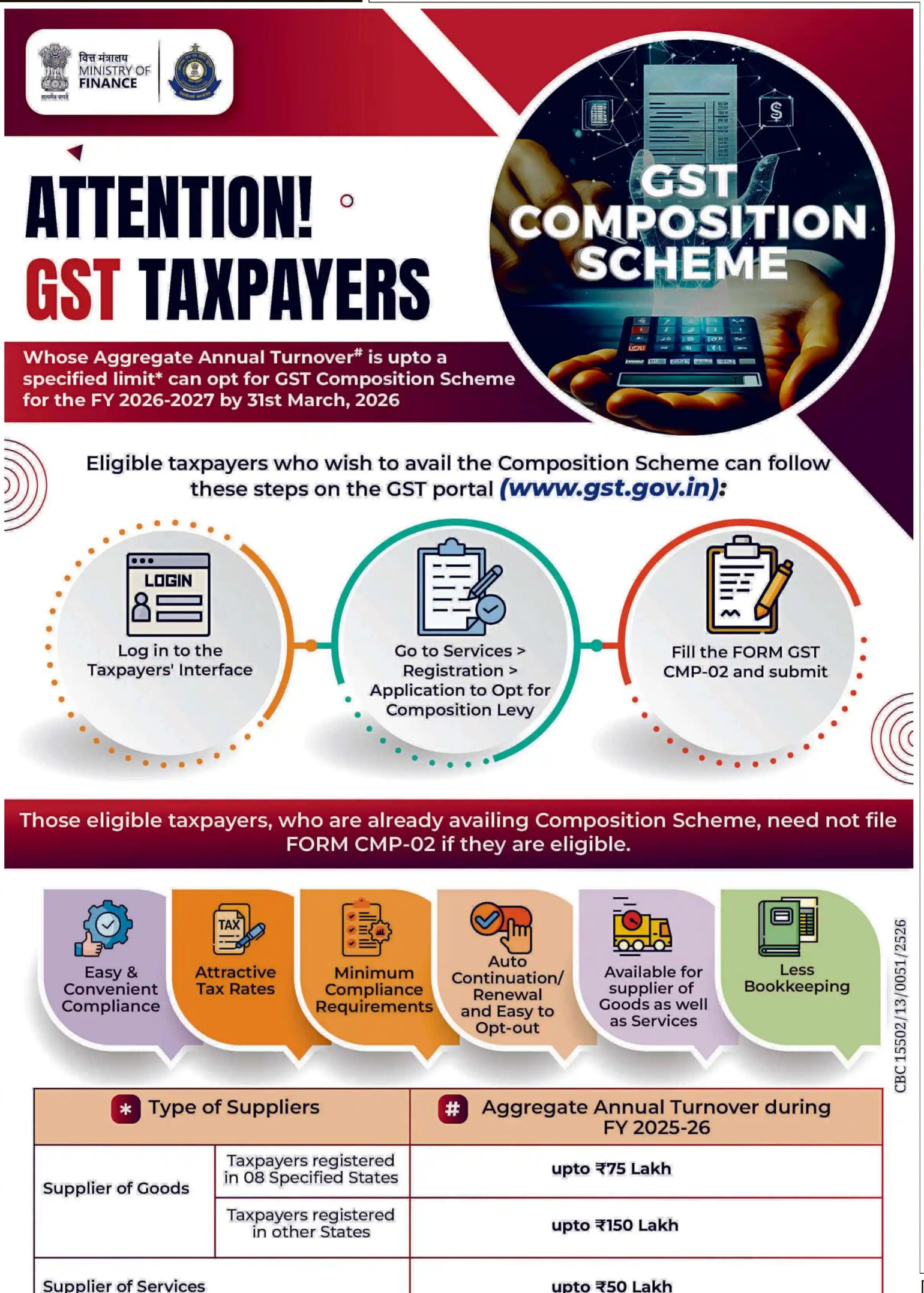
Preliminary investigations revealed that 59-year-old Maheshwari, a resident of Ambedkar Nagar, was attacked by her younger brother Manigandan, his son Kiran, and some of their associates.

Police said Kiran is married to Maheshwari's granddaughter, and there is marital discord between the couple. Kiran's wife left him and was staying with Maheshwari.

Manigandan was enraged when Maheshwari questioned him about his son's behaviour. He, along with Kiran and others, barged into her house around 7 am and attempted to take her granddaughter away.

When Maheshwari resisted, Manigandan attacked her with a knife and an iron rod with an intention to kill her, police said. The gang subsequently fled the scene with Maheshwari's granddaughter.

"The seriously injured woman was admitted to St John's Hospital. After examination, doctors confirmed that she is out of danger," said a police statement, adding, "In this connection, a case has been registered at the Adugodi police station. A special team has been formed to trace and apprehend the accused. Investigation is in progress."


वित्त मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
ATTENTION!
GST TAXPAYERS
Whose Aggregate Annual Turnover# is upto a specified limit* can opt for GST Composition Scheme for the FY 2026-2027 by 31st March, 2026
GST COMPOSITION SCHEME
Eligible taxpayers who wish to avail the Composition Scheme can follow these steps on the GST portal (www.gst.gov.in):
LOGIN
Log in to the Taxpayers' Interface
Go to Services > Registration > Application to Opt for Composition Levy
Fill the FORM GST CMP-02 and submit
Those eligible taxpayers, who are already availing Composition Scheme, need not file FORM CMP-02 if they are eligible.
Easy & Convenient Compliance
Attractive Tax Rates
Minimum Compliance Requirements
Auto Continuation/ Renewal and Easy to Opt-out
Available for supplier of Goods as well as Services
Less Bookkeeping
CBC 15502/13/0051/2526
* Type of Suppliers
# Aggregate Annual Turnover during FY 2025-26
Supplier of Goods
Taxpayers registered in 08 Specified States
upto ₹75 Lakh
Taxpayers registered in other States
upto ₹150 Lakh
Supplier of Services
upto ₹50 Lakh
For more details, please refer to section 10 of CGST Act, Rule 3-7 of CGST Rules and Notification No. 14/2019 - Central Tax dated 07.03.2019
GST Composition Scheme: Big Benefits for Small Taxpayers
@cbicindia @cbic_india @cbicindia @CBICINDIA @CBIC india

Kolkata special train regularised

BENGALURU, DHNS: The railways has regularised the Santragachi–Yelahanka–Santragachi Weekly Special Express to improve connectivity between Bengaluru and Kolkata.

The service, which was earlier operated as a Train on Demand (TOD) Special (02863/02864), will now run as a regular scheduled AC Express with new train numbers 18063 and 18064.

Train number 18063 will depart from Santragachi every Thursday at 12.50 pm with effect from April 2 and arrive at Yelahanka at 12.20 am on Saturday.

In the return direction, train number 18064 will leave Yelahanka every Saturday at 4.50 am with effect from April 4, and reach Santragachi at 5 pm on Sunday.

Mysuru train disruption

BENGALURU, DHNS: Due to road underbridge work between Mysuru and Naganahalli, the following trains will be cancelled or partially cancelled:

Train number 66579 KSR Bengaluru-Ashokapuram MEMU will be short-terminated at Pandavapura on April 10 and 15.

Train number 66554 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru MEMU will originate from Pandavapura instead of Ashokapuram at its scheduled departure time on April 10 and 15.

Train number 06270 SMVT Bengaluru-Mysuru Passenger will be rescheduled by 100 minutes from SMVT Bengaluru on April 9 and 14.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Student literature festival: Organised by Yuvaka Sangha; Arjun Bharadwaj, Dharmendra Kumar and others to participate; Yuvapatha, Jayanagar; 10 am.

Lecture: 'Dalit Literature: Challenges and Possibilities in Translation'; Du Saraswati, P Bharathi Devi and others to take part; Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Pradhikara, Kalagrama, Mallathalli; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Play: 'Kalagarbha'; Directed by Veeresh Matthinavara; Organised by Bhagyashree Kalavrinda; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 3 pm.

Play: 'Kurukshetra'; Organised by Yashaswini Samskruthika Kala Trust; Next to Patalamma and Igondlamma temple, Machagondanahalli; 9 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Sri Rama Navami Celebration: Organised by Sri Rama Bhaktha Sabha; Srimadanandatheerthacharya to be present; Srikanteshwara Bhavan, Malleswaram; 5.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	34.5°C
Minimum	21.7°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	36%
Sunset (Mar 26)	6:31 pm
Sunrise (Mar 27)	6:21 am
Moonrise	11:28 am
Moonset	--:-- pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

Corrig. No. :- S/RWP/ Advt./E/2025-26/21 corrigendum/2, Dated : 24.03.2026

Corrigendum

Corrigendum of E-Tender Notice No. S/RWP/Advt./E/2025-26/21 corrigendum/2 Dated: 24.03.2026 is as follows: - Particulars : Tender closing date of E Tender No. 02245265A (Design. Supply Installation, Commissioning & Training of Stamping Maching) Existing Date : 27.03.2026, Amended As : 10.04.2026

For PCMM/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt/2025-26/129

GOVT. OF JHARKHAND
CABINET SECRETARIAT & VIGILANCE DEPARTMENT
(CIVIL AVIATION DIVISION)
STATE HANGAR, AIRPORT ROAD, HINOO, RANCHI- 834002.
email:- cad@jharkhandaviation.in; govtflyops@gmail.com
Telefax:- 0651-2250319, 2251090

Ref. No.-225, ***Date:- 24/03/2026***

e-Tender Notice

E-tender under **TWO BID SYSTEM** are hereby invited by Civil Aviation Division (CAD), Govt of Jharkhand from OEM/OEM Authorized Representative/OEM Authorized Vendor for procurement and supply of Aircraft Special Tools/Equipment, Spares etc. on one time requirement basis with the type of Aircraft in use (no other unauthorised vendors and constodium applicant will entertain in this Bid process) as per the following schedule of events :-

Schedule of Events:

	DETAIL OF EVENTS	DATE
i.	Publish of tender on the website and download of tender documents.	24/03/2026; 06:00 PM
ii.	Pre Bid Meeting	27/03/2026; 03:30 PM
iii.	Start of bid submission	30/03/2026; 03:30 PM
iv.	Last date of Bid submission	15/04/2026; 03:30 PM
v.	Technical bid opening	16/04/2026; 03:30 PM
vi.	Opening of Financial Bid	To be notified later
vii.	Award of agreement	Shall be notified later
viii.	Delivery of items	Within 45 days from award of the contract

For further details and application please visit www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
(Capt. S. P. Sinha)
Director (Ops.)
Civil Aviation Division

PR 376020 (Civil Aviation) 25-26 (D)

झारखण्ड सरकार, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग

ई- अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा सं० :– RDSPL/SD/HZB/48/2025-26

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

ग्रुप सं०	आईडेन्टीफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रखण्ड	योजना का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	**RDSPL/SD/HZB/ 48/2025-26**	बड़कागांव	प्रखण्ड बड़कागांव अंतर्गत पंचायत आंगो के पत्थलकुदवा से सिमराजारा तक पीसीसी पथ निर्माण।	33233910.00	664700.00	10000.00	09 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 06.04.2026
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 06.04.2026 से दिनांक 15.04.2026 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –16.04.2026 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 9430154806
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग

PR 376036 Rural Development (25-26)_D

Congress moves to contain rebel threat in bypolls

BENGALURU, DHNS: Even as the ruling Congress prepares for the bypolls in Davangere South and Bagalkot, concerns over a backlash from the minority community have come to the fore, with the leadership making outreach efforts to rebel candidates in Davangere South.

At the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting on Wednesday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala asked minority leaders to engage with rebel candidates, persuade them to withdraw nominations, and prevent a split in votes. They also urged leaders to reassure minority voters that the party remains committed to their interests.

The bypolls, necessitated by the demise of veteran leaders Shamanur Shivashankarappa and HY Meti, are being seen as a litmus test for the CM amid an ongoing leadership tussle with Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president DK Shivakumar.

Party leaders called for unity, urging ministers, MLAs, and MLCs to work cohesively on the ground and "win the trust of voters" to secure victory. They stressed that internal differences must be set aside, with all efforts focused on ensuring the success of official candidates.

Legislators have been instructed to intensify booth-level work, with ministers appointed as in-charge leaders to oversee coordination and campaign activities. MLAs were also told to actively engage with voters, highlight the shortcomings of opposition candidates, and amplify these through the media.

The leadership also asked the party workers to effectively counter opposition's strategies.

Responsibilities will be assigned by working presidents, with a focus on micro-level planning.

Student elections set to be held from next academic year

Polls to be held at PU colleges as well

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has decided to reintroduce campus elections from the coming academic year and interestingly, the elections will be conducted even at the pre-university (PU) colleges.

Incidentally, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had signalled his government's intent to reintroduce campus elections in his 2026 Budget speech.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar constituted a committee with Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil as its convener to study the feasibility of re-introducing student elections.

Patil stressed the need to groom future leaders right from their days in PU colleges.

"This was discussed during the committee's meetings, and it was ultimately decided that student elections would be held at PU colleges as well," the minister said.

The committee members would soon begin a round of consultation with all stakeholders, including student bodies affiliated with various political parties, parents' associations and representatives of private colleges.

"We will gather feedback from all of them, and decide on the procedures to be followed for the elections," he minister added.

Given that the Lyngdoh Commission's report on student elections was accepted by the Supreme Court, the committee is also examining the recommendations made in the report.

"The committee prescribes a set of guidelines besides outlining the procedure to conduct student elections, which we are examining. Since it was accepted by the apex court, it will help avoid confusion," Patil said.

The minister added that a decision would be taken on instituting a monitoring authority to oversee the elections.

"We will follow a different model for elections at PU colleges. We need to consider the interests of students, most of whom will be focused on gaining admission to professional courses," another member of the committee said.

Guidelines will also be framed to ensure elections are not marred by violent incidents.

"Campuses are not what they were ten years ago. The dominant role of social media cannot be ignored, nor can its ability to create complications. The committee must bear this in mind while framing the guidelines," a senior faculty member at Bangalore University said.

Student union elections were banned in Karnataka 30 years ago following a few instances of violence reported at university campuses during elections.

State works on written protocols, post vet's death in hippo attack

NRUPATHUNGA S K
SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

Hippopotamus Hamsini at Tyavarekoppa zoo near Shivamogga.

In a first in the country, the government has decided to prepare written safety protocols on wildlife treatment in the state's zoos.

The initiative is the result of the tragic death of 27-year-old trainee veterinary officer Sameeksha Reddy, in an attack by a 15-year-old pregnant hippopotamus, Hamsini, at the Shivamogga zoo recently.

Confirming this, N V K Ashraf, chief veterinary officer and vice-president at Wildlife Trust of India, told *DH* that there were no written safety protocols for veterinary officers at the national level. But there were safety protocols at the international level.

"Many veterinarians had died while treating wild animals in zoos in the past. As Sameeksha was a young woman, the issue has the drawn national attention".

Zoo Authority of Karnataka member-secretary Sunil Panwar told *DH* that a meeting had already been held to discuss written protocols on wildlife treatment.

Veterinarians in nine zoos coming under the purview of Zoo Authority of Karnataka were treating wild animals in enclosures or in safari without written protocol.

Panwar said chief wildlife warden of Karnataka Kumar Pushkar chaired a meeting in Bengaluru on the instructions of Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre and discussed guidelines for animal keepers, veterinarians and forest officials working in zoos. He said separate safety protocols were being prepared for visitors, forest department staff and veterinarians.

The written protocols would be shared with officials of zoos across the state in a week, Panwar said.

MoEF asks state to probe complaint on illegal resort in Bhadra tiger reserve ESZ

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Union Environment Ministry has asked the state government to look into a complaint regarding construction of a resort by a company associated with a Congress leader in the Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) and buffer zone of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve (BTR), allegedly in violation of the rules and Supreme Court orders.

In a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, the regional office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) said an inquiry be taken up into a complaint received from Veeresh G, wildlife conservation activist, Chikkamagalur and Basavaraj Maidur of Ranebennur and enclosed their complaint.

The complaint demanded "immediate action against illegal resort construction by M/s Siddhant and Aratt Projects - Ayatana Chika Magalur LLP and concerned officers facilitating violations in the buffer zone and ESZ of Bhadra Tiger Reserve."

The complaint said the deputy commissioner, Chikkamagalur issued an illegal order, dated December 10, 2020, for converting 4 acre 35 guntas of land in survey number 58 of Kolagave village of Jagara Hobli in Chikkamagalur taluk for commercial purpose.

"As per the ESZ notification, commercial establishments such as hotels and resorts are prohibited unless approved by the ESZ Monitoring Committee and in accordance with an approved Tourism Master Plan, neither of which exists for the present project," it said.

The conversion order allegedly goes against the Supreme Court order of 2018 which held that protected areas enjoy a default ESZ of 10 km as well as the order of 2022 which held that draft ESZ holds until the final ESZ is approved.

Senior Congress leader Vinay Karthik, identified as designated partner by an analyst firm, refuted the allegations.

"The draft notification may have been issued but the state government had not accepted it at that time of land conversion. The Supreme Court direction on the draft ESZ came after we got the conversion order and plan sanction," he said. He, however, did not comment on the apex court order prescribing 10-km default buffer zone in 2018.

Meanwhile, the complaint further said that the entire Kolagave village was notified as part of the buffer zone, another protection offered specifically to tiger reserves and strictly monitored by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

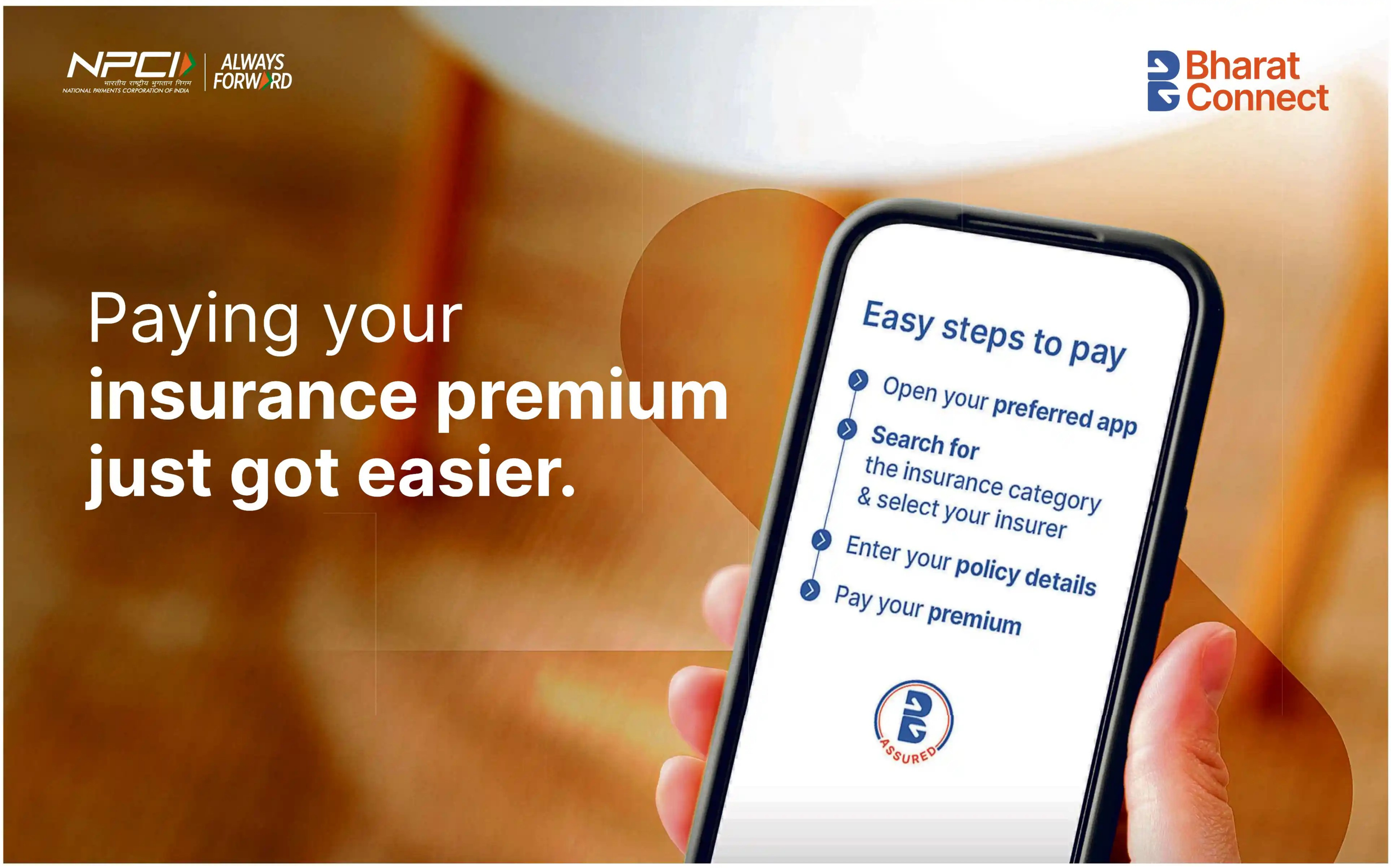
It further said that construction has commenced without mandatory statutory clearances and also blamed the officials for the violations.

State may seek reduction in ESZ

The state government is likely to seek a reduction in the Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve in the coming days with Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Wednesday stating that a "proposal will be sent to the Centre".

Khandre's statement came after a meeting with MLAs from Chikkamagalur district who complained that villages had been added into buffer zone in the 2011 notification. They also sought a revision of the deemed forest notification issued in May 2022. Besides promising to revisit the buffer zone, Khandre acknowledged that there were errors in the deemed forest notification but blamed the BJP, which was at the helm.

"In the previous BJP government, officials have included patta land, houses, government offices, schools and hospitals in the deemed forest list. We are looking into such problems and identifying alternative lands to compensate for the same," he said.



BJP flags huge sums spent on guarantee committees

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka on Wednesday accused the government of misusing public funds to "appease" disgruntled party leaders through appointments to key committees.

Referring to the Karnataka Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority, set up in January 2024 to oversee flagship welfare programmes, Ashoka questioned whether the panels were meant to implement schemes or function as a "rehabilitation centre" for party leaders and workers.

Citing figures tabled in the Assembly, he said Chairman H M Revanna draws a monthly salary of Rs 5.98 lakh, while five vice-chairpersons together receive Rs 22.19 lakh. Staff expenditure across six offices stood at Rs 27.15 lakh for February alone.

"The total monthly expenditure comes to Rs 55.33 lakh, amounting to over Rs 6.6 crore annually. What is the rationale behind spending such sums when the existing government machinery can implement these schemes? It is a burden on taxpayers," he alleged, adding that beneficiaries often face delays in receiving payments.

BJP president B Y Vijayendra echoed the criticism, alleging that public money was being diverted to sustain political interests. The state was under financial strain, yet funds were being spent on advertisements and salaries for political appointees. "When the government is unable to pay salaries to its own employees, spending taxpayers' money on such committees is not justified," he added.

Foreign fund 'misuse': New Bill tabled to take over NGO assets

Bill, from Page 1

Opposing the Bill, Cong's Manish Tewari said that the Bill gives sweeping and disproportionate powers to the executive without adequate Constitutional safeguards and legislative clarity.

G K Padavi of Congress said the Bill further shrinks available democratic space for civil society, which will have to work in "regulatory uncertainty and fear of punitive action". TMC's Pratima Mondal said the Bill is "dangerous" and "draconian". The Bill says some operational and legal gaps have been identified in existing law, particularly in relation to management of foreign contributions and assets created therefrom in cases where registration is cancelled, surrendered or otherwise ceases. Now, around 16,000 associations are registered and receive around Rs 22,000 crore annually.

It provides for vesting of assets at present, but absence of comprehensive framework for supervision, management and disposal of such assets has led to scope for misuse, it said. It provides for appointment of a "designated authority" to take over, manage, or dispose of assets created out of foreign funds by an NGO, whose registration to accept foreign funds has been suspended, cancelled or not renewed.

After expanding scope of who all come under "key functionaries", the Bill also proposes to make key functionaries liable for offences under FCRA, unless they can give evidence of lack of knowledge or due diligence.

CM blames Centre's policies for state's revenue strain

Says budget reflects fiscal prudence, social commitment

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday defended the state Budget in the Assembly, backing his arguments with fiscal data while squarely attributing Karnataka's revenue constraints to the Centre's policies, including GST changes and denial of compensation and central grants.

Maintaining that the Budget reflects both fiscal prudence and social commitment, the CM said the state continues to prioritise welfare while adhering to financial responsibility norms despite "structural constraints" imposed by the Centre.

"Karnataka's fiscal deficit for 2026–27 is estimated at 2.95% of GSDP, within the 3% limit, while total liabilities stand at 24.94% of GSDP, below the 25% threshold. In contrast, Centre's fiscal deficit is projected at 4.3% of GDP, exceeding the 4.2% guideline, and its total liabilities stand at 55.6% of GDP, above the recommended 40%," he noted.

Drawing comparisons with other states, the chief minister said Karnataka remains fiscally prudent, with deficit levels lower than Andhra Pradesh (4.5%), Kerala (3.8%), Tamil Nadu (3.5%) and Maharashtra (3.0%). He also highlighted stronger economic growth, noting that Karnataka's GSDP is projected to grow at 8.1%, compared to the national GDP growth of 7.4%, indicating better economic performance.

Siddaramaiah said the state's fiscal space had been squeezed due to central decisions and resulted in revenue deficit budget.

"GST growth dropped from 10% to 4% following rate reductions, impacting revenues. Further, the discontinuation of GST compensation after 2023–24 has resulted in a Rs 10,000 crore loss, expected to rise to Rs 15,000 crore in 2026–27.

Rejecting criticism that the government was running on debt, Siddaramaiah said borrowing stood at Rs 1.32 lakh crore against a Budget size of Rs 4.48 lakh crore, and was being used for welfare and development.

"Karnataka's borrowings stand at Rs 8.24 lakh crore. The Centre's debt rose from Rs 53.11 lakh crore in 2014 to Rs 218.63 lakh crore by March 2026. The Modi government borrowed as much as Rs 165 lakh crore in 12 years. The previous BJP government in state had left Rs 5.53 lakh crore in debt and neglected development," charged Siddaramaiah.

The state's capital expenditure is Rs 84,000 crore (20.72% of budget) and the Centre's is Rs 11.11 lakh crore (23.05% of budget). "We are focussing on infrastructure and development. We have spent Rs 1.31 lakh crore on guarantees till date to ensure social justice and social empowerment," he defended.

Siddu dodges question on DKS succession

Hits back after Ashoka prods him repeatedly

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday steered clear of naming his Deputy D K Shivakumar as a potential successor, even as a light-hearted but pointed exchange unfolded during proceedings in the Legislative Assembly.

The issue came up during a banter-filled interaction between the chief minister and Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, who repeatedly prodded Siddaramaiah on leadership questions.

Referring to a photo session of legislators, Ashoka quipped whether Speaker U T Khader was being "made a minister," prompting chief minister to respond that such decisions rested with the party high command.

Ashoka then asked if Siddaramaiah harboured a desire to table his 18th and 19th budgets too. And Siddaramaiah said he would be "happy" if BJP leaders like Ashoka, Arvind Bellad or Sunil Kumar became chief minister, adding that state BJP president Vijayendra would not allow it. He also said there were capable leaders in the Congress too like Parameshwara, H K Patil, K H Muniyappa and M B Patil.

When BJP MLA Sunil Kumar told the CM he had avoided mentioning Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah maintained that "all 224 members" had the calibre to become chief minister, but require an opportunity.

The exchange also saw personal jibes. Recalling his childhood, Siddaramaiah said he would give water to his cattle at his father's insistence, to which Ashoka remarked that the chief minister had learnt how to "make people drink water" (Janagalige Neeru Kudisodu) — a Kannada phrase implying defeating people. Siddaramaiah shot back, saying he gave water to cattle, but had made the BJP "drink political water."

When Siddaramaiah stated he did not believe in "Karma Siddhanta," Ashoka said, "It was "karma" that made you (Siddaramaiah) CM twice and made Congress open its doors for you. We are still waiting in the queue (to become CM)."

Ashoka poked Siddaramaiah that he had contradicted himself by avoiding "Rahu Kala" (inauspicious time) while presenting his 17th state budget recently.

"I have presented budgets during the inauspicious period in the past, but followed an auspicious time this year on the advice of family members and officials. I am democratic," the CM said.

"I believe in God, but don't believe he resides only in temples. I eat meat on Ugadi and Shivaratri," he added.

To BJP's taunt that Siddaramaiah was part of the JD(S), the CM said he had not joined H D Deve Gowda, but Deve Gowda had joined "his party" as Siddaramaiah was the state president for six years.

"I held Ahinda convention against his order. So, he expelled me from the party and nine of us MLAs joined the Congress," he added.

Oppn can't sleep without talking on CM & me: DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS

Taking a swipe at the opposition in the Assembly, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday remarked that the opposition appeared 'not to get any sleep' without speaking about him, CM Siddaramaiah and their power equation.

During a debate on the Budget, Siddaramaiah pointed out that Leader of Opposition R Ashoka had served as a BBMP Minister in the past. When Ashoka remarked that Bengaluru was his birthplace, Siddaramaiah said, "Oh, you were born here, and became an MLA here too. Earlier, it was Uttarahalli, now it's Padmanabhanagar."

Siddaramaiah also remarked on Ashoka's bid to contest from Kanakapura in the 2023 Assembly polls, when the latter lost to Shivakumar by a margin of 1,22,392 votes – Ashoka, in fact, came in third in that battle.

"Had Shivakumar contested from Padmanabhanagar, he would've lost," rejoined Ashoka. Siddaramaiah, however, contended that Shivakumar would most certainly emerge triumphant in the battle.

"He (Shivakumar) won there, but lost against you (Siddaramaiah)," quipped Ashoka.

The CM replied that the Congress high command had the last word on the leadership question. The Deputy CM, however, said, "If you don't speak about the two of us, you don't get sleep."

When Ashoka said that it was the Deputy CM who was not getting sleep, Shivakumar replied, "It was because I did not sleep that I got the party to power."

Siddaramaiah pointed out that the BJP too had to abide by the decisions taken by the saffron party's central leadership.

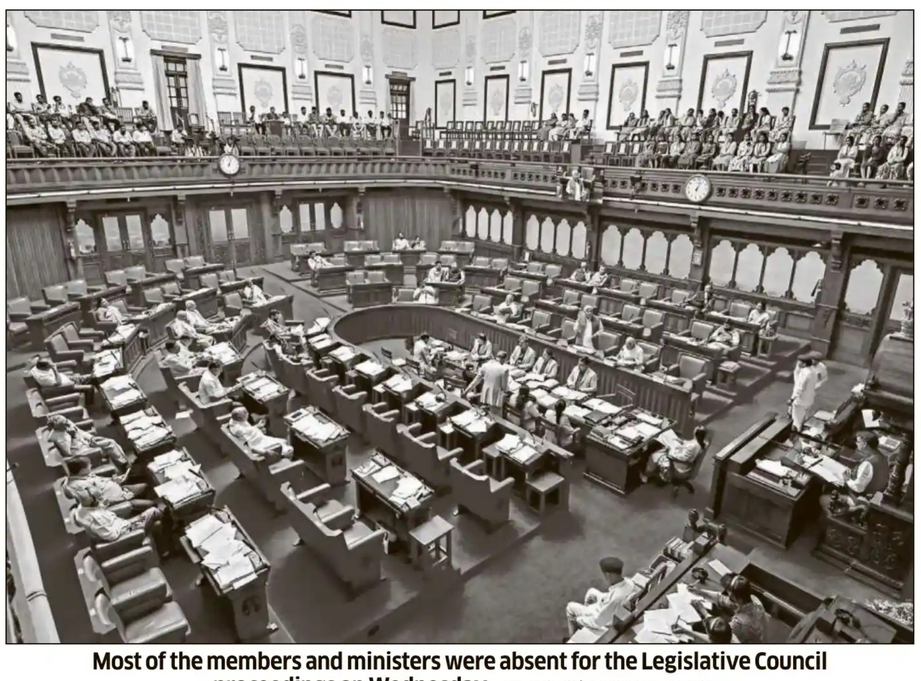
"If Ashoka is asked whether he will become the chief minister, will he say anything? He too will say that the party leadership will decide," said Siddaramaiah.

Assembly passes 3 bills

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Assembly passed the two Karnataka Appropriation Bills for 2025-26 and 2026-27. Both were tabled by CM Siddaramaiah. As per Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2026, Rs 4,67,249 crore will be defrayed towards several charges which will come in the course of payment for 29 services during 2026-27.

As per Karnataka Appropriation (No 2) Bill, 2026, Rs 14,767.89 crore will be defrayed towards several charges. The House also passed the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2026. The Act amends the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1957.

POOR ATTENDANCE



Most of the members and ministers were absent for the Legislative Council proceedings on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

Annual pain: B'luru water bills to rise by 3%

Water bills, from Page 1

"It factors in the increase in cost of commodities and electricity. Instead of a lumpsum increase in the water bill once in many years, we decided to introduce a revision by a small percentage every year," he said, adding that the BWSSB continues to be in revenue deficit.

In May 2026, BWSSB had increased the bill by up to 1 paisa per litre for domestic users and up to 1.9 paisa per litre for industries. It had also hiked sanitary charges for borewell users by Rs 30 while it was Rs 125 for non-domestic connections. BWSSB supplies water to about 12 lakh households daily.

'Anti-people'

Former councillor N R Ramesh demanded the immediate withdrawal of this provision that allows automatic revision, stating that it is anti-people. "After the Siddaramaiah-led government came to power, BWSSB has already increased the water tariff by 31.25% and sanitary cess by 25%. An automatic increase is not just undemocratic but amounts to daylight robbery of citizens of Bengaluru," he said.

India not a 'dalaal' nation like Pakistan...

All-party meet, from Page 1

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri made a presentation before the gathering.

The government also said that the domestic production of LPG has increased to 60%, which is up from 28% when the war started.

Jaishankar said that till now four ships had passed through the Strait of Hormuz and more are on the way; Puri put the number at 5 more ships. Jaishankar also said that 4.27 lakh people have reached India after the war began.

Responding to criticism from the Opposition that the government remained silent on the West Asia crisis, Jaishankar said, "we are commenting and responding".

When asked if India is still part of NAM and BRICS, Jaishakar said, "Uganda is the chair of NAM at present, and it is their decision not to comment on the situation. He said there is a difference of opinion among members of BRICS on the issue."

When Supriya Sule asked the government what the tangible benefits of allying with US and Israel were, the leaders replied that the US is India's largest business partner, and Israel is the largest "technological partner".

Iran dismisses US ceasefire plan, issues counterproposal

Ceasefire, from Page 1

Those measures, particularly reparations and its continued chokehold over the Strait of Hormuz, likely will be unacceptable to the White House.

Mediators are pushing for possible in-person talks between the Iranians and the Americans, perhaps as soon as Friday in Pakistan, the Egyptian and Pakistani officials said.

Meanwhile, at least 1,000 US troops from the 82nd Airborne Division will be sent to West Asia in the coming days, three people with knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military plans.

The Pentagon is also in the process of sending about 5,000 more Marines, trained in amphibious assaults, and thousands of sailors to the region.

Trump has said the US is "in negotiations right now". He has not disclosed who from Iran they are in contact with.

Israeli officials, who have been advocating for Trump to continue the war against Iran, were surprised by the submission of a ceasefire plan, according to a person who was briefed on the contours of the proposal and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Any talks between the US and Iran would face monumental challenges. It's not clear who in Iran's government has the authority to negotiate - or would be willing to, as Israel has vowed to continue killing the country's leaders.

Iran remains highly suspicious of the US, which twice under the Trump administration has attacked during high-level diplomatic talks.

The Israeli military said Wednesday afternoon it had completed several waves of airstrikes in Tehran. The army also said that as part of its strikes a day earlier it targeted an Iranian submarine development center in Isfahan.

Missile alert sirens sounded multiple times in Israel as Iran launched its own attacks.

Drone and rocket fire from the Iran-back Hezbollah militant group continued unabated.

Iran also kept up the pressure on its Gulf Arab neighbors. Saudi Arabia's Defense Ministry said it had destroyed at least eight drones in the kingdom's oil-rich Eastern Province, and missile alert sirens sounding in Bahrain.

Kuwait said it shot down multiple drones but the General Civil Aviation Authority said one hit a fuel tank at Kuwait International Airport, sparking a fire that sent a huge plume of smoke into the sky.

Hyderabad beats Bengaluru in 'liveability' index: New report

Hyderabad, from Page 1

It was high on themes such as 'going-out', weather and diversity. Hyderabad performed more evenly across most sections even though commute was still an issue. Both cities, however, average 58-59 minutes to cover one-way distance but Hyderabad commuters typically cover 22 km, which is about 4km more than what Bengaluru does.

Bengaluru still wears India's jobs crown.

"It tops the Workforce Pull Index on the strength of formal employment, tech-talent density and recent hiring momentum especially in high-end roles. Startups, GCC leadership and a thicker seed-to-scale pipeline keep Bengaluru the magnet for ambitious builders," the report states, noting that Hyderabad is emerging as a challenger to Bengaluru on many fronts such as formation of new companies, Grade-A office spaces and GCC set-ups.

COMPETING FOR TECH CROWN

	Bengaluru	Hyderabad
New companies (2024-25)	11,261	10,813
Grade-A office since 2019	69 mn sq ft	66 mn sq ft
Rents		10-15% below Bengaluru
Commute outcomes	58-59 mins one-way	Hyd riders cover more km
AI funding (2019-23)	$318.7m	$4.4m
GCC talent (2019-24)	65 million	45 million

SOURCE: REPORT TITLED 'A TALE OF TWO CITIES' BY UNBOXING BLR

In the Economic Heft Index that studied 30 metrics to study historic economic influence of a city and the change it has seen over the past five years, Delhi NCR and Greater Mumbai emerged as top in the chart but Bengaluru was surging ahead.

In her introduction to the report, Malini Goyal, co-founder of UnboxingBLR, noted that city indices unlike state indices are less common in India.

"One of the reasons we felt confident of adding indices now was the ever-growing base of data. The indices were crafted to understand the city better, connect with the daily expenses and arrive at a more informed view."

Shortcut to disaster: One-way violations spike

Violations, from Page 1

He said while officers are often tied up with manual regulation during peak hours, the department has launched special drives to catch violators during off-peak times when speeds are higher and risks are greater.

DCP (Traffic) East Sahil Bagla noted, "There is a continuous special drive against one-way violations which started from February this year. The majority of the cases we register are during the daytime, and major violations come from two-wheelers. By doing so, they are endangering the property of others and creating obstructions. Do not go for shortcuts," he urged.

"About converting more roads to one-ways, we will take a look at the local traffic situation and plan to convert them on an experimental trials. If it is successful, we will go forward to mitigate local area traffic."

DCP (Traffic) North Jayaprakash said, "Ballari Road, Tumakuru Road, Rajajinagar and Malleswaram have seen an increase in violations during peak hours. Inner roads at RT Nagar, Yeshwantpur and Sanjaynagar have also seen a steady rise."

DCP (Traffic) South Gopal M Byakod said, "Once one person drives on the wrong side, others follow. This herd mentality must change. When you see someone breaking the law, they must be reprimanded, not followed. People tend to violate one-way rules if the stretch is short. The mindset 'it's nearby, why should we go all the way?' has to change. All roads have seen an increase in cases due to high vehicle volume."

Road rage, near-misses

The blatant disregard for rules often leads to ugly confrontations. One commuter near Girinagar recounted a bad experience with an auto-driver coming on the wrong side. When confronted, the driver retorted, "What's wrong if I drive on the wrong side? Is there no space? I dare you to note down my number and do what you want."

In a recent horrific incident in Bagalur, a lorry entered a one-way street and rammed into five vehicles, including three two-wheelers and a car. The collision left several vehicles mangled and one person seriously injured. Another commuter noted that such mindless driving is becoming a daily occurrence, even at signalled junctions.

The police maintain that they are focusing on "4Es": Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Emergency care. While police continue to experiment with new one-way trials to mitigate local congestion, they emphasise enforcement alone cannot fix the problem.

"Driving against a one-way is extremely dangerous, risking head-on collisions and fatal accidents," Reddy said. "Each of the 1.35 lakh cases registered this year is a potential tragedy averted."

Thunderstorms continue to lash N-K dists

BENGALURU, DHNS: Showers, with thunder and lightning and gusty winds, continued to pound many districts in north Karnataka, for the third consecutive day, on Wednesday.

Intense hailstorm pounds several villages in Chincholi taluk of Kalaburagi district on Wednesday.

Sudden and intense hailstorm lashed Chincholi taluk in Kalaburagi district in the evening. Hailstones had turned roads and fields at several villages, including Ainapur and Chandankera, into a snowy landscape. It damaged horticultural crops.

Several villages in Kukanur taluk of Koppal district also witnessed a sharp spell of hailstorm. Hulsur in Bidar district experienced intense rainfall in the evening.

Hubballi and Dharwad continued to witness rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning. Gusty winds brought down many trees in the two cities. Waterlogging caused hardships to commuters.

The body of a farmer was found at his farm at Kallihal in Haveri taluk on Wednesday. Fakkirappa, a native of Kallihal village, is suspected to have died in a lightning strike on Tuesday evening. Haveri town and parts of the district received thundershowers.

Heavy rain in catchment area and water release from Bhadra has swollen Tungabhadra river. Hammige barrage in Mundargi taluk got 3,500 cusec inflow Tuesday.

Only two parties fighting Kerala Assembly polls – UDF and partnership of BJP, LDF
Political Theatre
It is not an alliance under the leadership of Palaniswami. It is entirely an alliance that follows orders coming from Delhi

Poll vault

Antony's foresight

With the Congress-led United Democratic Front in Kerala holding high expectations of returning to power, there has been a rush of parliamentary aspirants seeking to debut in this election. Since it was impossible for the party to accommodate all aspirants, voices of resentment were evident. Yet, the Congress managed to pacify everyone. It seems veteran leader AK Antony, who is the former defence minister and former Kerala chief minister, anticipated this well in advance and prescribed a solution. Addressing a party meeting last month as part of poll preparations, the seasoned politician advised that those who fail to secure tickets should not feel dejected. He urged them to work towards bringing the party to power, assuring that once the party forms government, there will be many options available.

ARJUN RAHGUNATH, THIUVANANTHAPURAM

Healing votes

Poll promises are often protracted in practice in India. However, at least two candidates of the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal did not wait for a renewed mandate to begin delivering on the party's manifesto released on March 21 for the elections. Nirmal Maji and Atindra Nath Mandal – both doctors and TMC candidates from the Goghat and Kalyani constituencies, respectively – have started turning into reality the pledge of TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee to launch "Duare Chikitsa" (medical care at the doorstep). Armed with stethoscopes, sphygmomanometers and medicines, they have been going door-to-door, checking on the sick and elderly, and writing prescriptions. The services are free for now but, needless to say, both physicians-turned-politicians expect votes in return.

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK, KOLKATA

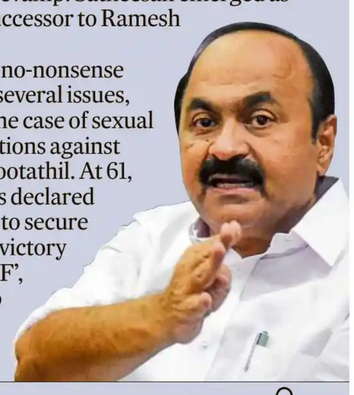
Meet the leader

VD Satheesan
Congress
Paravur

VD Satheesan, contesting for the sixth consecutive time from Paravur near Kochi, is leading the Congress-led UDF in his role as the Leader of the Opposition in Kerala. With a strong political track record, Satheesan is seen as a frontrunner to emerge as the next chief minister, though the Congress has chosen not to project anyone as its CM candidate. He was appointed LoP during a party revamp after consecutive setbacks in two Assembly polls. Rising to the occasion, Satheesan steered the UDF to victories in all but one of the subsequent byelections. The UDF also performed well in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the 2025 local body polls.

A law graduate, Satheesan entered politics during his student days. Though he lost his maiden electoral contest in 1996, he went on to win every election from 2001 onwards, winning five consecutive terms. As a young MLA, he was known for his strong pro-environment stance, earning the tag of "green MLA". He opposed moves to dilute the recommendations of the Madhav Gadgil Committee on Western Ghats protection, even when his own party was in power. Following the UDF's second consecutive defeat in the 2021 polls, the Congress sought a leadership revamp. Satheesan emerged as the natural successor to Ramesh Chennithala.

He adopted a no-nonsense approach on several issues, including in the case of sexual assault allegations against Rahul Mamkootathil. At 61, Satheesan has declared that if he fails to secure a resounding victory for 'Team UDF', he will go into political exile.



Trivia

KR Gouri Amma was among the longest-serving members of the Kerala Assembly. She also holds the distinction of being the youngest and the only woman minister in India's first Communist government, led by EMS Namboodiripad in 1957. She won her first election to the Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assembly in 1952 and again in 1954. When the Communist Party of India split in 1964, she joined the CPM and served as a minister in 1957, 1967, 1980 and 1987. She later left the CPM to launch her own outfit and went on to become a minister on two more occasions in Congress-led United Democratic Front governments in 2001 and 2004.

Assam eviction victims face polls without names on rolls

Families in Kachutoli fear exclusion after eviction and voter list deletions

FROM THE GROUND

SUMIR KARMAKAR
KACHUTOLI, DHNS

"See how we are living here," said Majiran Nessa, pointing towards the muddy alley between rows of thatched and tarpaulin sheds in Kachutoli village, about 50 km east of Guwahati.

Around 70 to 80 Bengali-speaking Muslim families have been taking shelter there since September 2024, after their houses were demolished in an eviction drive by the BJP-led government in Assam.

ASSAM
Assembly Poll

"These sheds are blown away by storms. There is no electricity and drinking water," added Marijna, 52, a mother of five, speaking to *DH*.

On September 13, 2024, at least two villagers were killed and more than 30 others were injured in police firing after residents allegedly clashed with police and officials of Kamrup Metro district. In total, about 950 families — all Bengali-speaking Muslims — were evicted, as the land they occupied had been reserved for tribals from nearby villages.

Another 40 evicted families are living along the Digaru river, on the other side of the road. But all of them are grappling with a bigger problem ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled for April 9. More than 2,200 names have been removed from the revised electoral rolls published on February 10.

"We were barred from voting during the panchayat polls last year, and now our names have been removed. The government says we are Bangladeshis. Let them see our documents," said Ibrahim Ali, a resident of Kachutoli. "Most of us have our names in NRC list."

Eviction victims at Kachutoli village. DH PHOTO

Ali claims that most residents are victims of erosion, who had shifted from neighbouring Morigaon district and purchased land in and around Kachutoli as far back as 1983.

Over 2.43 lakh names were struck off the final revised rolls.

Assam's Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Goyel recently said that no deletions were done suo moto; some electors were marked as "permanently shifted" and removed from earlier constituencies. He said they could appeal for reinclusion by submitting Form-6. But residents in the camps told *DH* their petitions remain unresolved by the district administration, and they fear they will miss the upcoming polls.

Thousands of Bengali-speaking Muslims, whom the BJP labels as "Miyas" or "infiltrators" from neighbouring Bangladesh, have been evicted since 2021, when Himanta Biswa Sarma became chief minister. More than 1.5 lakh bighas of land have been cleared in these drives.

Muslims, who make up nearly 35% of Assam's population, are traditionally seen as a vote bank for either the Congress or the Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF. But eviction victims say neither party came to their aid.

"The CM says Muslims don't vote for BJP. Restore our names, and I assure him that everyone here will vote for the BJP," said Hasan Ali, a resident.

A few metres away, a BJP flag fluttered atop a hut. "We put up the flag to show our support," Ali added.

Rising Sun symbol in fight for 175 seats, says Stalin

CHENNAI, PTI: DMK President and Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday said the party's 'Rising Sun' symbol would be in contest in 175 seats out of the state's total 234 constituencies.

Writing to cadres, Stalin said, over the past five years, the Dravidian model government has elevated the state's development to national level by "correcting the degradation" in all sectors in Tamil Nadu due to 10 years of atrocious AIADMK rule.

The contribution of ideologically aligned allies -- who supported such a great effort and achievement -- is extremely important, he said.

Respecting and acknowledging this, the seat-sharing negotiations were conducted democratically on behalf of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), he said.

Excluding constituencies where alliance parties will contest under their own symbols, the Rising Sun symbol will be in contest in 175 constituencies for the 2026 Assembly election-featuring a combination of DMK candidates and alliance candidates contesting under the DMK symbol.

BJP fields RG Kar victim's mother from Panihati

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

One-and-half-years after the rape and murder of a young doctor in a hospital in Kolkata sparked off protests across West Bengal, the BJP on Wednesday declared Ratna Debnath, the mother of the victim, as its candidates for the Assembly elections.

Debnath will contest from Panihati against Tirthankar Ghosh of the Trinamool Congress. Tirthankar's father, Nirmal Ghosh, was the MLA from the constituency in the outgoing state Assembly.

The BJP's move to field the mother of the victim of a brutal rape and murder is apparently intended to reap the political dividends of the widespread outrage which had swept the state in the wake of the incident on August 9, 2024.

"If I win and work for the people of the constituency, my daughter's soul will be happy," Debnath said. The party also declared candidates for 18 more constituencies in the state, leaving 19 more to be announced later. "Let the lotus bloom across West Bengal, and the Trinamool Congress be uprooted from the state," she said.

Apart from Tirthankar, Debnath will contest against Kalatan Dasgupta of the CPM. Kalatan was arrested during the widespread protests. Though the protest was largely apolitical, the leftist organisations had played a key role in organising the agitation, which continued for several weeks, posing a formidable challenge to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's government and the TMC.

Mamata links SIR to NRC, attacks saffron party

EC sources say 13 lakh names deleted under adjudication

KOLKATA, DHNS & PTI

Nearly 40% of the 32 lakh names adjudicated so far have been deleted from the electoral rolls of West Bengal, EC sources in Kolkata said on Wednesday, even as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called upon people to avenge the "harassment" caused by the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls by voting against the BJP.

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

The number of removed electors under adjudication currently stands at 13 lakh. With some 63 lakh names struck off the rolls earlier during the SIR exercise in the state, the total number of deleted voters has risen to nearly 76 lakh. Around 28 lakh cases under adjudication still remain to be cleared by the 705 judicial officers currently working in the state.

The poll panel had released the first supplementary list of 'under adjudication' voters on Monday, but remained tight-lipped on the number of deletions or the precise figure of cases disposed of in that list, drawing criticism from various quarters.

Mamata's Trinamool Congress, which has been ruling the eastern state since 2011, has been accusing the Election Commission of conducting the SIR in a flawed manner to ensure advantage for the BJP in the Assembly polls. Mamata also sought to draw a parallel between the SIR exercise and the controversial National Register of Citizens (NRC).

"Today, they are snatching away your voting rights; tomorrow, they will snatch away citizenship by bringing in the NRC," Mamata said at an election rally in Maynaguri in North Bengal.

'Harassment'

The TMC supremo further said she and her party would never allow "harassment" of people of West Bengal in the name of updating the NRC of the state, like neighbouring Assam, and wouldn't allow the BJP-led Union government to send people of the state to detention centres for deportation.

Suvendu Adhikari, the de facto chief ministerial candidate of the BJP, on the other hand, said the SIR had already resulted in the removal of around 79 lakh fake voters, and this would help the BJP win at least 177 of the 294 seats in the Assembly.

He alleged in a BJP rally in Purba Medinipur that the Trinamool had always relied on fake voters to remain in power.

Supporters cheer during an election roadshow led by Leader of Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly and AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami (unseen) at the Mylapore constituency, ahead of the state Assembly elections, in Chennai district, on Wednesday. PTI

AIADMK to contest 169 seats, allots 65 to allies

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Retaining its supremacy in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the AIADMK on Wednesday announced it will contest 169 constituencies in the April 23 Assembly elections, while allotting the remaining 65 constituencies to its allies and restricting the BJP to one seat each in Chennai, Coimbatore, and Madurai districts.

The AIADMK will contest 13 of the 16 seats in the state capital Chennai, having allotted only three to allies – Mylapore (BJP), Saidapet (AMMK), and Perambur (PMK), setting the stage for a direct confrontation with the ruling DMK, which won all seats in the 2021 assembly polls.

Allotting Perambur in Chennai to PMK, where the party lacks any base, is interesting as Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) president and actor Vijay is expected to enter the race from the constituency, which is a DMK bastion.

TAMIL NADU
Assembly Poll

BJP, which has settled for 27 seats, has retained only eight seats it contested in the 2021 polls, even as the party has secured constituencies across the state this time.

AIADMK, which forfeited its deposit in Kanyakumari in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, has allotted all five of the six to its allies – BJP (4) and Tamil Maanila Congress (1), leading to criticism that the party has "gifted away" losing constituencies to alliance partners. Of the five seats that the TMC will contest, two are held by ministers, and another two are traditional DMK seats. In all, 14 constituencies currently held by DMK ministers have been allotted to alliance partners.

The BJP has been allotted Coimbatore (North) instead of its sitting seat Coimbatore (South) and was denied Singanallur, where the saffron party was contemplating to field its former state unit chief K Annamalai. Sattur in Virudhunagar district has been allotted to the BJP amid speculation that its state unit chief Nainar Nagenthiran is likely to shift there from Tirunelveli. The party has also been allotted Thanjavur, and Thiruvarur, traditional DMK stronghold, and Aranthangi.

Cong veteran Jeevan Reddy quits party

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Senior Congress leader and former minister T Jeevan Reddy resigned from the ruling Congress on Wednesday, citing the party's betrayal of Rahul Gandhi's rallying call "Jai Bhim, Jai Babu, Jai Samvidhan." In his resignation letter, he accused the party of undermining the Constitution it claims to uphold.

Announcing his resignation at a meeting with his followers on Wednesday, he declared that he would henceforth take on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directly.

KERALA POLLS

'Despite outreach, Muslim voters reluctant to back BJP'

Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar feels that despite extensive outreach efforts, Muslim voters remain unwilling to support the BJP in elections, even when the candidate belongs to the same community. In an interview with Arjun Raghunath, he also challenged the Congress to take its allegations against him to court. Excerpts:

Is the Congress or the CPM your main opponent in Kerala?
There is no difference between them, either ideologically or politically. In 27 states and eight Union Territories, they have a formal political alliance — including Tamil Nadu, which is also heading into elections. Only in Kerala is this little drama playing out. Our campaign that 'CPM and Congress are not two, but one' is resonating with people. That is why they have launched counter-allegations against each other, claiming the BJP is their B-team.

Who is your main opponent in Nemom – sitting CPM MLA and Minister V Sivankutty or Congress candidate KS Sabarinadhan?
I don't see any difference between them. Even long-time Congress MLAs, such as Leader of the Opposition VD Satheesan, have done very little for their constituencies. The only difference between the Congress and the CPM lies in the scale of corruption. Both parties even woo outfits like Jamaat-e-Islami for political gains.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Won't the absence of a BJP candidate from the Muslim community in Kerala help the Congress and CPM woo Muslim vote banks?
Despite extensive outreach to the Muslim community, I believe they are still not ready to support us — even if the candidate is Muslim. Our politics is Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. It doesn't matter whether I am Christian, Hindu or Muslim — I will serve all members of my constituency. Once the exploitation by the CPM and Congress diminishes, more and more people from the community will join the BJP.

Kerala has over 27% Muslim population and 18% Christian votes. What are your expectations about the minority votes?
I don't believe there is a need to view Malayalis through the prism of caste or religion. Every Malayali wants change, a better Kerala that creates opportunities for the youth. We are building 'Viksit Keralam' for everyone.

Scan QR code to watch video

How do you think the Sabarimala temple-related issues will reflect in this election?
It is certainly a major issue. It represents the corrupt politics practised by both the CPM and the Congress. In 2018, the CPM turned it into a controversy to disrupt rituals, and now the same party has made a U-turn because elections are approaching. They know Hindus are angry over the gold heist. People have made it a major issue.

The BJP lost its maiden seat in Kerala in the 2021 Assembly election, and the party's vote share also declined.
I have no clear idea about the reasons. But in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, we crossed the 20% vote-share mark. We have now won the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation. We are no longer a party that can be sidelined or suppressed by the propaganda of the CPM and the Congress. Malayalis are now treating us as the real alternative.

Have you set any target? Do you anticipate a hung Assembly?
I have set only one target — to take the message of development and opportunity to 140 constituencies. Why should I anticipate a hung Assembly where the BJP-NDA will have a clear mandate? People want Narendra Modi's style of politics of performance.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A race against the climate clock

Over the past many decades, scientific organisations and experts have warned the world about climate change and its consequences on life in the planet. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the United Nations' climate-tracking agency, has regularly released reports highlighting the evolving crisis. Its latest, the State of the Global Climate Report 2025, has presented a darker picture of our climate future – a world on the brink of a climate disaster, with all the markings of an irreversible tragedy. The report says the decade that ended in 2025 was the warmest in history. Key climate indicators, such as atmospheric greenhouse gases, surface temperature, ocean heat, ocean acidification, sea levels, the health of glaciers, and the extent of ice caps in the sea, have consistently underlined the impending fallout.

The world was about 1.43 degrees Celsius warmer than the pre-industrial average in 2025. The temperature has been rising over the last many years, even as efforts remained focused on limiting it to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. In 2024, the atmosphere saw the highest level of concentration of carbon dioxide in the last two million years, and the largest presence of methane and nitrous oxide in the last 800,000 years. The report also notes the presence of excess energy accumulated in the atmosphere because of various factors. About 90% of this energy is absorbed in the form of heat by the oceans, which have seen their rate of warming double in the last 10 years. This indicates that the planet would continue to get warmer in the coming years, even if the emission of green house gases is stopped now.

WMO report issues new climate warnings, warranting a collective and transformative global response

This is the first time the WMO report has included energy imbalance that leads to excessive heat as a key climate indicator. It means that climate change has found momentum independent of actions that are aimed to control it. But accepting the inevitability risks weakening of counter-strategies. The crisis warrants strengthening of the global response which, so far, has fallen short in intent and impact. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has again reminded the world about the state of emergency global climate is in. The fight demands changes in the economic policies of governments, personal lifestyles, and the world's collective vision for its future. Though there is a concerted movement that calls for such changes and efforts are on at the international level under the United Nations' auspices, the results remain uninspiring. This is a race against time where half-steps won't do.

Unspent funds deepen water challenge

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has long argued that the state is short-changed by the Centre in the allocation of funds. However, the latest report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), tabled in the Legislative Assembly, tells an uncomfortable story: when it comes to the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the state has struggled to spend even what it receives. This warrants close attention from Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge, given his department's central role in the scheme's implementation. Water is not a discretionary welfare measure; it is a basic right. The JJM's promise – universal functional household tap connections – was therefore not merely an infrastructure target but a social contract. Between 2019 and 2024, during the BJP and Congress rule, Karnataka received only about 45% of the Rs 24,819 crore allocated by the Centre, largely because it failed to utilise funds on time or submit utilisation certificates promptly. This indicates that the problem is structural, transcending party lines.

The consequences are visible. The state achieved only 66% of its targeted household tap connections by late 2024. Delays in tendering, projects awarded without securing land, and even works abandoned after incurring expenditure point to systemic lapses. Equally worrying are concerns over sustainability and quality. The state has continued to rely on groundwater, while spending on water quality monitoring fell sharply over the audit period. Instances of inflated reporting – villages declared fully covered despite incomplete works – further erode credibility. Recent reports of over 3,100 villages receiving chemically contaminated water only reinforce the CAG's findings. That nearly 10% of tested samples show contamination, and that testing often follows disease outbreaks rather than preventing them, reveals a troubling data vacuum in public health oversight. Yet, the audit is not without its positives. The expansion of tap connections has reduced the daily drudgery for rural women and contributed to lower dropout rates among girls in schools. These gains underline what effective implementation can achieve, and what is being lost due to poor governance.

Karnataka's handling of the Jal Jeevan Mission allocations exposes serious governance lapses

The failings highlight a lack of financial discipline. Karnataka's well-documented 'March rush', where up to 40% of capital expenditure is pushed through in the final month, encourages hasty spending over thoughtful execution. This demands urgent course correction. The state should institutionalise outcome-based budgeting, linking allocations to measurable results rather than mere expenditure. Karnataka's grievance against the Centre will carry weight only when it demonstrates credibility in utilising what it already has. There can be no excuse for failure on something as fundamental as drinking water.

RIGHT TO REST

Heat stress: Labour laws and missing safeguards

Extreme heat is a serious work hazard that calls for a climate-informed policy and enforceable protections

APEKSHITA VARSHNEY AND PRATIK MISHRA

Extreme heat at work is no longer a future concern; it's shaping the reality of labour today. However, the Karnataka government's 'Draft Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Rules, 2026' falls short of embedding heat-stress science and workers' lived realities into enforceable standards. The draft rules include nods to heat science, noting humidity through hygrometers, cold drinking water, and heat hazards from machinery. Yet, it remains detached from the scale of the climate crisis, ignoring how extreme heat endangers workers' health and productivity across sectors.

Historically, India's labour health and safety protections have been anchored in the physical workspace, most clearly in the Factories Act. The Act treats factories as a static, indoor world, regulating the built environment – ventilation, temperature, humidity, drinking water, sanitation, crowding – through design and engineering controls. This static perspective remains central within both the central government's Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, and now, the Karnataka draft.

We highlight three problems. First, the Karnataka draft continues to exclude the majority of workplaces. While safety committees with worker representation effectively drive science-informed, worker-led interventions, the draft restricts them to establishments with over 100 workers (500 for most factories). This abandons the majority of the working population, including in construction, platform-based work, street-vending, and small and medium factories. Coverage must be widened by lowering thresholds, with safety committees established through collective associations, such as town vending committees, for micro-enterprises. While Karnataka's steps to expand the welfare architecture for gig and domestic workers are commendable, health and safety provisions in the draft rules remain limited.

The second issue is the rules' preoccupation with the *built environment*, while physiological evidence identifies *behaviour* as the more powerful thermoregulatory response. Thermal behaviours include rest, slowing work, seeking cooling, and hydrating to offset sweating-induced fluid loss. Relegating behaviour to self-regulation diminishes impact. For example, relying on workers to hydrate when thirsty is ineffective, as thirst is a late sign of dehydration. Workers need to hydrate proactively, which requires awareness but also empowerment.

Emerging evidence suggests that allowing workers to self-pace sustains productivity, as workers can distribute their workload more effectively and avoid heat exhaustion. But current industrial systems actively discourage this. Piece-rate wages compel workers to continue in hot conditions, as resting imposes an economic penalty. Thermal protective behaviours must not be penalised.

While workers can raise complaints, they lack a framework for protective

action. Behavioural mandates must be written in, including obligations for employer-led training on heat safety, safe-work procedures, and non-retaliation clauses protecting the right to slow down or refuse risky work during heat spikes.

Third, protective behaviours require accessible infrastructure including public infrastructure. The draft rules cover some essential workplace infrastructure like drinking water, sanitary toilets, ventilation, and exhaust systems for heat-radiating machines. However, the cumulative nature of heat stress beyond the workplace must be recognised. One study found that 70% of manual workers arrived at work already dehydrated. Heat action must address increasing heatwave days, urban heat island effects, and night-time temperatures.

Advisory to corrective action

Municipal drinking water points, toilets, shade, cooling centres, green and blue public spaces must be recognised as labour infrastructure, with financing assigned to employers, local bodies, and the State. The new codes and state rules must accomplish the following.

First, explicitly recognise heat stress, including humid heat, as a core health and safety issue across sectors, not just hazardous factories, and embed obligations for employers to anticipate and manage it. This requires defining maximum permissible Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) thresholds and requiring establishments to monitor them using hygrometers. Threshold breaches must trigger legally binding responses like heat audits, work rescheduling, or immediate work stoppages.

Second, rules must enable behavioural intervention backed by economic security. We need protocols for maximum work durations, mandatory rest breaks, and the right to self-pace or refuse dangerously hot work without penalty. Participative workers' committees can identify extreme heat zones and activities, and must be empowered with training and early warning systems. Third, enforcement must move away from self-declaration. The State must restore a credible, adequately staffed inspection system. Currently, most heat-exposed workers lack internal safety professionals to monitor conditions or a State apparatus to detect and penalise unsafe heat levels.

The well-established impact of workers' heat stress on productivity, as well as the risk of chronic diseases afflicting heart, lungs and kidneys, makes addressing it a win-win-win for workers, employers, and the State. Alongside a general heat-protection framework, we need to synthesise climate science, occupational health, and social science to develop sector-specific guidelines and interventions. Such frameworks must answer: Where are hotspots in a city like Raichur at different times of day and year? Which occupations face compounded risks from heat, air pollution, and flooding? How do gender, caste, and informality shape exposure? This evidence-driven mapping should collectively involve unions, municipal bodies, and researchers.

Countries are shifting from *ad-hoc*, advisory models to embedding heat into labour law. France's Labour Code now requires employers to take preventive measures during heatwaves, including adapting work processes, and supplying cool drinking water. Japan has gone further: revised regulations trigger mandatory action when WBGT crosses defined thresholds, requiring employers to monitor conditions, implement hydration protocols, and structured rest cycles, or face fines.

Karnataka has a chance to show what labour law can look like in a warming world: a climate-informed framework recognising that the right to work safely increasingly means the right not to be cooked, slowly, at work.

(Apekshita is the founder of HeatWatch, an initiative focused on the impact of extreme heat on India's marginalised populations; Pratik is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Sussex)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

When the feet finally found the beat

Over time, my feet continued getting sorer, showing no signs of familiarity with the music

PADMA SASTRY

I have always questioned if I have two left feet. The suspicion often grows to a valid concern whenever I step on a dance floor.

An opportunity to ascertain my belief started with an innocuous call from a cousin to partake in a dance routine for her daughter's wedding *sangeet*. While this didn't get me to fall off the chair I was perched on, it was what followed after. The dance, a medley of Hindi, Gujarati, Kannada and English tunes, was to be performed by a few invited friends and family members. Sixteen to be exact—all legally eligible to be categorised as seniors and geographically located in several time zones and countries. And me, with my two left feet.

While the proposal was accepted by all – reluctantly by some – a question on the modes to actually accomplish this feat loomed large. After much deliberation, our host convinced us that the only feasible way was to have someone record the choreographed dance to practise.

The package, video and audio, perfectly choreographed and compiled, arrived promptly in my inbox – all six minutes of it. I watched the video, again and again. I could not get past the first few steps, my mind befuddled even more with the unfamiliar lyrics and the rhythm. I egged on, with courage and faith following loyally by me, towards my new adventure. Following a few initial tardy starts with sorting technical and user errors, group practice began on video meetings, with my two left feet devotedly joining in every time.

Shortly, I noticed, the number in the dance troupe dwindled. The dance routines are now altered to adjust to the odd number of dancers that fit no more as planned, in two neat rows. Spouses that were planned to join at the end were dismissed to my spouse's utter joy. Our banter of collective commiseration of anxiety and ineptitude also thankfully became our buttress of amusement.

Days quickly trundled by, my calendar punctuated with practice times. Over time, my two feet continued getting sorer, showing no signs of familiarity with the music routine.

The wedding day finally arrived. Minutes before the performance, the dance troupe practised. In person. For the first time. As the lights dimmed in the audience, my heart thumping in anxiety, my feet stepped onto the dance floor, fully flooded with lights.

As the music started, my feet woke up. Rightfully, as the right foot and the left foot. This time, they looked at each other. They stepped to the right, left, front and back. With the lyrics and the rhythm. Completely in harmony. As I take the bow with the troupe to applause, I smile in silent content and thank my two feet. They smile back at me, promising a repeat performance. Do I look forward to the next *sangeet*? Perhaps.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Railways' new no-refund rule is not consumer-friendly

Apropos '8-hour limit for train ticket refund' (Mar 25), the Railways' new rule, under which passengers who cancel their confirmed travel tickets within 8 hours of the scheduled departure time will receive no refund, is a retrograde and consumer-unfriendly move. The Railway Minister's assertion that it will enhance seat/berth availability for other passengers is particularly questionable, as travellers who alter their plans within the 8-hour window will be less inclined to cancel their tickets formally when no refund accrues to them. In such cases, seats and berths will go empty. The move, apparently aimed at curbing touts and middlemen selling confirmed tickets at a premium, will inconvenience passengers. The Railways are the only affordable and convenient mode of transport for millions; it is unfair to treat them so harshly.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

Women deserve better

I refer to 'Can Iranian women take back their fundamental rights now?' (Mar 25). It paints a stark picture of the horrors faced by ordinary Iranians who do not toe the diktats of the Islamic regime. Ironically, many Iranians appear to be realising that the 1925-1979 era of the monarchs was a relative 'heaven' compared to what they have had to endure post the Islamic Revolution of 1979. The case of Iran raises the ethical question of whether 'sovereignty' trumps external intervention when it comes to the plight of a long-suffering people.

Arda Kaikhushroo Batha, Bengaluru

Fix waste crisis

Apropos 'Waste collection hit in 50 wards as workers go on mass leave' (Mar 25), the ongoing garbage collection problem in several wards adds to the growing list of problems afflicting Bengaluru. The authorities concerned must address it immediately to prevent the issue escalating into a public health crisis. Workers must be compensated suitably, and the issue of waste segregation addressed forthwith.

Harshitha K, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The statement given by Rahul Gandhi raises a question whether he is interested in the interest of India, or in spreading rumours. First, he should clarify whether he is on India's side or Pakistan's side... In the last 10-12 years, he has spoken the language of Pakistan.

Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister

Silence can ask all the questions, where the tongue is prone to ask only the wrong one.

Robin Hobb

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Oil shocks and energy sovereignty

Conflicts shape a world order of oil alliances that threatens to undermine multilateral cooperation

PIYALI MAJUMDER

The Brent crude oil price is soaring at an alarming rate, reaching a high of $110 per barrel, as the Strait of Hormuz remains in a choke. Among the OPEC countries, Venezuela and Iran are jolted by a series of military attacks plotted by the United States.

Iran contributes approximately 3.5 million barrels per day (mbpd) and is an emerging 'nuclear power', owing to the enrichment of Uranium in the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP). Venezuela has the largest proven oil reserves in the world. Saudi Arabia (10-11 mbpd) and the UAE (3-4 mbpd), contributing approximately 15-16% of the world's oil production, are also facing the heat of the escalating regional rifts. Saudi Arabia's historic oil security pact (since 1945) with the US, and the presence of the American military base in the Gulf region, have kindled Iran's wrath in the form of drone and missile attacks on the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The UAE and Saudi Arabia, along with the other Gulf nations, are shifting their stance from neutral to retaliatory against the continuous aggression inflicted upon them by Iran. Energy sovereignty outpaces economic competitiveness.

The OPEC+ alliances, including Russia, one of the largest oil producers (approximately 10.5 mbpd), presently maintain a diplomatic silence regarding the ongoing US-Iran military escalations. However, Russia is sharing strategic intelligence with Tehran, contingent upon US intelligence support to Ukraine. The escalating crude price can benefit Russia through a surge in its oil revenue from major importers such as India, China, and Turkey. Furthermore, this will fuel the sustenance of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

The European Union is one of the largest consumers of oil and other petroleum products. About 60% of its total energy needs are met through imports, with a high dependence on Russia till 2022. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the EU has reduced this dependence and shifted to other partners like the US for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and Algeria and Norway for both oil and LNG. The diversification of energy partners away from Russia (a relatively cheaper source) may pose a threat to the industrial competitiveness of the EU. But the European bloc's strategic plan of REPowerEU, to shift from fossil fuels to build its own capacity in renewable energy sources, can make it a global leader in wind and solar power generation.

The BRICS+ energy bloc

BRICS+ (new members Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE) has emerged as a new energy bloc controlling global oil supply and solar-based electricity generation. This new grouping is also using local currency for oil trade, bypassing dollar-based transactions. The bloc has a competitive advantage in terms of both renewable and fossil fuels. It has the potential to emerge as a new regional power, recontouring the future of the global energy landscape. Furthermore, China and India are shifting from OPEC nations to Russia for imported oil owing to supply uncertainties.

The US has the largest shale oil reserves in the world, and it is one of the largest exporters of natural gas (shale gas). While the world grapples with an energy sustainability crisis, the US has easy access to LNG at an affordable rate. It is also considered a 'bridge fuel' in the energy transition process and has lower carbon content compared to crude oil and coal. The price of the US natural gas is declining, reaching below $3.1 per mmBtu. The US's attacks on Venezuela and Iran are widely seen as strategic moves to expand its control over the global oil reserves and, in turn, reinstate itself as the supreme political and economic power of the world.

The energy sustainability trilemma, involving the three choices of energy security, energy equity (affordability), and environmental sustainability, can be resolved through multilateralism. This will entail cooperation among countries, like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and the Energy Charter Treaty, which also facilitates cross-border energy trade.

Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) encourage partnerships between developed, emerging, and developing economies to facilitate the transition from fossil fuels to cleaner fuels. This spirit of multilateralism is now threatened by the energy sovereignty sentiment across the world. It remains to be seen if the rise of multiple competing energy blocs reshapes multilateralism or fragments the world into distinct pieces. The outcome will also influence efforts towards achieving the net-zero goal by 2050 under the Paris Agreement.

(The writer is faculty, Economics and Public Policy, at IIM Rohtak)

Maharashtra's anti-conversion law sails through, but sparks unease

DATELINE Mumbai

MRITYUNJAY BOSE

Much on expected lines, the Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026, was passed with minimal resistance in the state legislature, even as sections of the Muslim and Christian communities voiced apprehensions over its potential misuse. While the ruling dispensation maintained that the law aims to curb fraudulent religious conversions, critics argue its provisions are expansive and could target specific communities or restrict individual liberty.

India does not have a central anti-conversion law, but several states have enacted similar legislation over the decades.

Odisha was the first to introduce such a law in 1967, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Haryana. Maharashtra now joins this list.

The Devendra Fadnavis-led Maha Yuti government introduced the Maharashtra Dharma Swatantrya Adhiniyam, 2026, on March 13, days after receiving Cabinet approval. The Bill cleared the Legislative Assembly on March 17 and the Legislative Council on March 18, both times through a voice vote, indicating a lack of significant legislative resistance.

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi appeared divided on the issue.

While the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) supported the Bill, the Congress demanded it be referred to a joint select committee for further scrutiny; the Sharad Pawar-headed NCP (SP) questioned the government's intention.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who also holds the home and law and judiciary portfolios, defended the legislation, asserting it does not target any specific community.

Fadnavis argued that instances exist where women were allegedly lured into relationships, converted, and later abandoned, leading to social and legal complications. He said the law seeks to address such situations by ensuring conversions occur without coercion, fraud or inducement. The Bill will now be sent to Governor Jishnu Dev Varma for assent.

The legislation lays down stringent penalties for religious conversions carried out through coercion, fraud, inducement or marriage.

- Conversions linked to marriage through unlawful means can attract imprisonment of up to seven years and a fine of Rs 1 lakh.
- Offences involving minors, women, persons of unsound mind, or members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes carry a punishment of up to seven years in jail and a fine of Rs 5 lakh.
- Mass conversions are punishable with a similar jail term and fine.
- Repeat offenders can face imprisonment of up to 10 years along with a Rs 5 lakh penalty.

A notable provision mandates that individuals intending to convert must give a 60-day prior notice to the authorities. Following conversion, they are required to complete a formal registration process within 25 days.

The government maintains that these provisions are designed to ensure transparency and safeguard individuals from exploitation. Opposition leaders and civil society groups, however, have raised concerns over its potential impact on constitutional freedoms.

Samajwadi Party MLA Raees Shaikh argued that the law infringes upon the freedom of marriage and religion guaranteed under the Constitution. He questioned the absence of official data supporting claims of large-scale forced conversions and described the legislation as "one-sided."

Shaikh also flagged concerns over the 60-day notice requirement, asking whether the State would guarantee protection to individuals who publicly declare their intent to convert.

Responding to these concerns, Maharashtra Minister of State for Home Pankaj Bhoyar said that the prior notice requirement is meant to verify that conversions are voluntary and not the result of coercion or inducement.

The legislation follows sustained demands from right-wing groups, Hindutva organisations and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for stricter laws against what they describe as "illegal conversions" and "love *jihad*."

The Bill has drawn strong criticism from leaders outside the state. AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi termed it "worse than the worst" among similar legislations in other states, including Uttar Pradesh.

Owaisi argued that such laws risk criminalising genuine conversions and creating obstacles for interfaith marriages. He expressed concern over provisions that penalise individuals endorsing conversion documents and those that refer to "brainwashing through education," calling these terms vague and open to misuse.

He also invoked B R Ambedkar, noting that Maharashtra was the site of a historic mass conversion to Buddhism led by Ambedkar. "The irony is that such a law is being introduced in Babasaheb Ambedkar's land — the same state where he converted to Buddhism along with lakhs of others. This is a brazen violation of the right to privacy. The Supreme Court has held that this right includes the freedom to choose or not choose a faith. After all, the Preamble to the Constitution promises everyone the liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship," said Owaisi.

Several Christian organisations have also opposed the legislation, stating that it undermines the very religious freedom it claims to protect. In a joint statement, the Bishops said the law interferes with constitutionally guaranteed rights under Articles 19, 21 and 25, which ensure freedom of expression, personal liberty and the right to profess and practise religion.

The requirement of a 60-day prior notice, they argued, imposes an unnecessary burden and reduces a deeply personal decision to a bureaucratic process.

The groups also raised objections to provisions allowing relatives to file complaints that could trigger police action, warning this could lead to harassment and misuse. They called for safeguards to ensure that false or malicious complaints are penalised.

As the Bill awaits Governor Jishnu Dev Varma's assent, its implementation and interpretation will likely face close scrutiny.
DHNS

Stopping Iran's production of drones is critical to opening the Strait of Hormuz and halting its attacks on Gulf nations. But can it be done?

NICHOLAS KULISH

Iranian-made Shahed drones on display during a military parade in Tehran in 2024. NYT

In Iran war, cheap drones remain wild card

The first black-and-white surveillance image shows a simple factory complex on a tree-lined road west of the Iranian city of Isfahan. In a second image, the factory, which United States Central Command said was manufacturing drones, had been blown to pieces, leaving shards of debris and blackened skeletal frames where buildings once stood.

Central Command released the before-and-after images last week, showing what it purported to be "another major blow" to "Iran's defence industrial base," while serving as a kind of promise to allies in the Persian Gulf that the barrage of Shahed attack drones targeting their population centres and energy infrastructure would eventually be stopped.

It is a promise the United States might not be able to keep.

The Shahed drones are cheap weapons made with off-the-shelf parts that can be assembled in a smaller workshop than the site near Isfahan University of Technology targeted by the United States.

"The problem with a technology like that is it's become democratised," said Maximilian Bremer, a nonresident fellow at the Stimson Centre, an organisation that analyses global security, who was previously chief of the Advanced Programmes Division at the US Air Force's Air Mobility Command.

"If it's relatively easy to do, to bend aluminium, to 3-D print, a basic motorcycle engine, then it's harder to track where it's coming from," Bremer said. Yasir Atalan, a deputy director and data fellow in the Futures Lab at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, put it more bluntly. "Iran," he said, "will be able to produce more if this war continues."

The ease and relative cost of production have helped give Iran the ability to keep fighting and create havoc across the region, even in the face of widespread US-Israel bombardment. Iran is regularly firing missiles and drones across the Gulf, albeit at a lower rate than at the start of the conflict. Atalan said Iran was still able to launch 70 to 90 drones per day. That was down from more than 400 drones launched on March 1. (Exact totals are hard to track. Some ministries of defence in the region are releasing statistics, while others are not.)

Iran is focusing large numbers of drones on the Gulf States. The distance from Iran to those nations is much closer than to Israel, giving them less time to react and shoot the drones down.

Many are intercepted. The Saudi Defence Ministry said on Saturday that it had shot down dozens of drones overnight, while sirens warned of another incoming attack in Bahrain. The United Arab Emirates' Defence Ministry said it intercepted three more ballistic missiles and eight drones on Saturday. Some have got through, often with deadly results. Six US Army reservists were killed in an Iranian drone strike at Shuaiba port in Kuwait.

The Shahed drones are simpler to launch than ballistic missiles. They can be moved in the bed of a large pickup, making it possible for crews to evade detection with little more than a tarp to throw over the back. As long as the drones are in the air, Iran has a greater ability to pick and choose which countries' ships can navigate the Strait of Hormuz, while the United States rushes more troops and matériel to the region to try to fully reopen the waterway.

The question facing war planners in Washington and Israel is just how many drones the Iranians still have hidden or can build, and whether they will have enough interceptors to shoot them down before the weapons can wreak further havoc for regional allies and global energy markets. Estimates of how many Shaheds Iran had at the start of the war vary widely — from thousands to tens of thousands.

There are many different models of the drone known as the Shahed, but the most commonly used is the delta wing Shahed-136, which is in many ways a slow, rudimentary cruise missile. Just over eight feet wide and around twelve feet long, with a top speed of 115 miles per hour, it launches from a rail-based rack off the back of a military or commercial-grade truck. Once in the air, the Shahed has a range of up to 1,500 miles and uses GPS to find the target for its 90-pound warhead. All at an estimated cost of $35,000 per drone.

To combat the threat posed by the Shaheds, Gulf States are firing interceptors that cost millions apiece and scrambling fighter jets that must slow down almost to stall speed to deal with the puttering low-tech machines. They also have Apache attack helicopters machine-gunning them out of the sky.

Even if Iran's ability to manufacture drones were to be severely degraded, it may be able to count on assistance from Russia. Gordon B Davis, a senior fellow at the Centre for European Policy Analysis who served as a deputy assistant secretary general for NATO's Defence Investment Division after retiring from the US Army as a major general, said in a briefing on Thursday that Russia was working to produce as many as 1,000 drones a day.

Iran is not trying to defeat the United States in any traditional sense, Davis said, adding, "Iran has adapted quickly, targeting air defences, radars and command-and-control nodes rather than simply trying to compete symmetrically."

Russia, whose own economy and war machine feed on oil and gas revenues, has every incentive to help Iran keep the Strait of Hormuz closed. And every expensive interceptor fired at an Iranian drone is another that cannot be shipped to Russia's adversaries in Ukraine.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine, noting that 11 countries had asked for assistance combating Shahed drones, said that over 200 Ukrainian drone experts had rushed to the Middle East to aid in the fight. Ukraine has learned how to use cheap interceptor drones instead of expensive Patriot missiles to bring down the battle drones Russia launches in waves at its territory, often by the hundreds every night.

Iranian drones are the product of four decades of development, born out of military and financial necessity.

Iran first began using crewless aerial vehicles little more sophisticated than hobbyist, remote-controlled airplanes with cameras attached during the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s. It continued developing newer and better models, sometimes with imported parts, but often with domestic production because of economic sanctions.

In a report on Iran's military power, the Defence Intelligence Agency said that Tehran first used drones for "long-range, cross-border strike operations" in 2018, for an attack against the Islamic State group in eastern Syria. They were subsequently used in an attack on Saudi Arabian oil facilities in 2019, for which the Houthis claimed credit.

Iran first provided drones to the Kremlin in 2022, shipping them across the Caspian Sea on ships with their maritime-tracking beacons turned off or removed, Ukrainian intelligence officials have said.

In 2022, the European Union imposed sanctions on Shahed Aviation Industries, a company linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and accused of being "responsible for the design and development of the Shahed series of Iranian Unmanned Aerial Vehicles." The US followed suit.

Damien Spleeters, director of field operations at Conflict Armament Research, described the approach to manufacturing drones taken by Iran and Russia so far as "simplicity, reliance on commercial components, quantity over quality."

The goal for US and Israeli airstrikes is to destroy as many production facilities and weapon stores as possible to stop the threat from Iranian drones. " It's not necessarily very easily tracked. Decentralised production is possible. You don't need huge facilities for these," said Atalan of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.
The New York Times

Urban governance, the Lee Kuan Yew way

SOURABH ROY

Lee Kuan Yew remains one of Asia's most consequential statesmen. Among his many views on governance, one stands out for India and deserves attention on his 11th death anniversary. In 2008, when the then deputy chief minister of Maharashtra, R R Patil, asked how Mumbai could be turned into Singapore, the former prime minister of Singapore gave a blunt answer. Mumbai could not achieve that unless it was separated from Maharashtra and governed as a distinct unit. The problem, he noted, was simple. Maharashtra depended too much on Mumbai's revenue.

This raises two questions. Do state governments favour their highest-growth cities? And does that preference limit those same cities? The answer to both is yes.

Across India, development tends to cluster around cities that are already doing well. Karnataka is a recent example. Despite efforts to push investment into Kittur and Kalyana regions, more than half of the projects cleared in the recent years were concentrated in just four districts: Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Kolar and Tumakuru. Thus, even when a state claims to be broad-basing development, capital and administrative attention continue to cluster around the dominant metropolitan region.

The effects are visible. Regions that are left behind begin to demand separate statehood. Be it Vidarbha in Maharashtra, North Karnataka in Karnataka, Kongu Nadu in Tamil Nadu or Barak Pradesh in Assam. They all point to uneven development within states, for discontent follows, when growth is concentrated in one place.

There is also a broader pattern behind this. Society in India often follows a "top-performer" approach. As a result, more support goes to places that are already succeeding, and less attention is given to weaker regions. But this approach does not work well. The Nobel Prize-winning work of Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer shows that targeted support for weaker groups produces better results than focusing on top performers alone.

By that logic, states gain more by strengthening Tier 2 cities than by repeatedly investing in one dominant city. This also spreads risk. A state with multiple growth centres is more stable than one that depends on a single city. In Tamil Nadu, for example, growth is spread across Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Hosur.

But the problem does not stop there. When a state depends heavily on a single urban centre, that city starts being treated as a fiscal asset instead of a place that needs its own governance. Cities like Mumbai have complex needs. Issues such as transport and housing require focused and flexible administration.

A study by Harvard University on regional economic inequality in the United Kingdom shows that when growth is concentrated in one dominant region, underperforming cities elsewhere drag down overall productivity, while the leading city itself faces mounting structural pressures.

It is in this context that Lee Kuan Yew's suggestion gains relevance. If a city such as Mumbai is expected to function as a global financial and commercial hub, it may require a governance framework different from that of an ordinary city. Granting select high-growth cities greater autonomy, potentially as Union Territories with legislative assemblies, could allow them to govern in alignment with their economic complexity. India already has a constitutional template in the model of Delhi under Article 239AA.

But this also calls for caution. Should every high-growth city that crosses a certain threshold be carved out as a union territory? And if so, what would that threshold even be? Population or revenue alone is not enough. Administrative capacity, regional linkages and the fiscal impact on the parent state matter too.

This model also reveals the limits of autonomy, as the Supreme Court has categorically held in *State (NCT of Delhi) vs Union of India* that subjects such as public order, police and land remain under Union control, which continues to remain a point of contention between elected governments of UTs and the Centre. Any move in this direction would therefore have to be designed by balancing local self-government and national oversight.

There is also the question of revenue. States rely heavily on their largest cities. Removing that source creates real concerns. Transitional revenue-sharing arrangements between the Union and concerned states can ease the shift.

If India wants globally competitive cities without deepening regional resentment, it must do two things at once: strengthen weaker cities and rethink whether a very small number of exceptionally complex urban agglomerations require a distinct constitutional status.

(The writer is research fellow, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, Karnataka)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MARCH 1976

Franjieh flees palace, Beirut bombed

Beirut (Lebanon), March 25
President Suleiman Franjieh fled his hillside palace stronghold today under heavy shelling from Leftist forces. His supporters retaliated by bombarding the capital, killing scores of residents who ran into the streets. More than 200 persons were killed and 500 wounded since early Wednesday in what one commentator called the "most terrifying 24-hour nightmare Lebanon has ever faced" in its bloody 11-month war. The toll since April climbed to nearly 15,000 dead and 32,000 injured.

25 YEARS AGO: MARCH 2001

India's population is 1.02 billion

New Delhi, Mar 25
India has become the second country in the world after China to cross the one billion-population mark. This was announced by Registrar General and Census Commissioner J K Banthia. He said India's population was over 1.02 billion as on March 1, 2001. Releasing provisional population results of the Census of India 2001, which concluded on February 28, Mr Banthia put India's total population at 1027,015,247. This amounts to 16.2 per cent of the total world population.

OASIS | PRASANNA S HARIHAR

The urgency of self-realisation

Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya illuminated us through his teachings the righteous path extolled in our *sastras* – realise your true self in this human life and attain *moksha*–freedom from the cycle of birth and rebirth. A sense of urgency is called for in a short mortal journey – cleanse ourselves, find a *guru*, learn *sastras* under him to progress along the spiritual path.

Are we committed in the first place and what about the intensity of this quest? A human life with emphasis during the initial years on learning and throughout one's life meeting the daily quota of sleep for rejuvenation is already riddled with reduced time.

To know our true nature, we have 2.5 billion seconds. Seems a lot, but the initial step into a spiritual path is the first obstacle. Mind hankers for unwanted pursuits which make us feel rejuvenated, temporarily though. Or 42.5 million minutes to wobble around in activities that lend no substance to our life. Or a further nudge reveals that there is only seven lakh hours, but we tend to scream "only one life, so let me enjoy to the extent that I create many joyous moments."

Or upon further analysis it's 30,000 days which appears 'not many.' The justification now is from another angle – "there is only so much time; allow me to drift in pursuit of my passion." Once again fleeting, to say the least!

Turning to the weeks, where and how do I spend those 4,200 weeks?! Is it by living the life as we know now: week-after-week passes by fast – a Monday through Friday, with two weekend days marked for cooling off from an arduous week? The results are we become weak in our knees!

Or this mortal body is earmarked for 1,000 months. When we jog down the memory lane there are moments of triumphs and tribulations. Can there not be one *satsang*-related or self-introspection based momentous day which lends a sparkle, termed progress along the spiritual path?

Or finally, it is down to some 80 years which appears long enough but then would fly by fast. Life expectancy in India is at 78-80 years. Here is an earnest attempt to become aware that there is little time to achieve our one purpose in life!

Can we enhance our spiritual urge to progress in available shelf-life towards our one purpose – Who Am I?

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. 33004/99 REGD. No. D.L. - 33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER & COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR LAND ACQUISITION
Sira to Badavanahalli section (NATIONAL HIGHWAY 69)
TUMKUR DISTRICT, TUMKUR

PUBLIC NOTICE
(UNDER SECTION 3(G) OF N.H. ACT 1956)

S.O. 1437(E), Date: 19.03.2026 - Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, **5867(E) Dated:17/12/2025,** published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub- section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/Two/ Four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of **NH-69 in the stretch of land from Design Km 347.500 (Intersection with NH-48 at Km 116.800) to Km. 367.700 on Sira to Badavanahalli section in the district of TUMKUR in the state of KARNATAKA;**

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in **"Deccan Herald" dated 23/12/2025 , "Vijayavani" dated 23/12/2025** ; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances. The land owners can submit their statements if any, along with relevant property documents to the below address.

Name of the Villages	Enquiry Date and Time	The place where the land owners / interested persons have to appear & submit / their claims
SIRA TALUK Magodu, Borasandra, Guligenahalli, Nyayagere, Halkuru, Halkuru Kaval, Gummanahalli, Emmerahalli, Taggihalli, Rathnasandra,	09/04/2026 FROM 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM	INSPECTION BUNGALOW, SIRA.
MADHUGIRI TALUK Lakshmipura (Venkatapura), Dodderi, Badavanahalli, Apanahalli, Badavanahalli amrutmahal Kaval, Konnahalli, Konapanayakanahalli		

Sd/-
Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority
National Highway, Tumkur Branch,
Impana Arcade, 8th Cross,
Upparahalli Main Road, Tumkur-572102.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures within the stretch of land from Design Km 347.500 (Intersection with NH-48 at Km 116.800) to Km 367.700 on Sira to Badavanahalli section in the district of TUMKUR in the state of KARNATAKA.

STATE : KARNATAKA — DISTRICT: TUMKUR

Sl. No.	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectares	Name of the Land Owner / Interested Person
1	2	3	4	5	6
TALUK: SIRA					
VILLAGE: MAGODU					
1	200	Private	Dry	0.412268	Borappa S/O Kareboranna Vishalakshmi.C W/O B.N.Ranganath Lakshmamma W/O Late B.Mahalingappa Nagaraju S/O Borappa Lakshmamma W/O Late B.Mahalingappa Nagaraju S/O Borappa
2	309	Private	Dry	0.0328803	Taranum Ar Khanum S/O Shafiq Ahmed
3	362	Private	Dry	0.151755	Lakshmi Devi W/O Vamadevamurthy Jayamma W/O Nagaraju Javanappa W/O Javalingappa E.Maradiranganathappa B.N.Ranganathappa
4	363/1	Private	Dry	0.0480558	Javanappa (60X80) W/O Javalingappa E.Maradiranganathappa (30X40) S/O Iranna B.N.Ranganathappa (30X40) and (30X80) bin Narasappa Sakamma (30X120), (30X120), (30X120) W/O Giriyanna Jayamma W/O Nagaraju Mandal Panchayat (140X60 feet) Jayamma (20X120) W/O Nagaraju Rangashyamayya S/O Mallappa
5	363/2	Private	NAK	0.111287	Kusuma W/O Rangappa - Bhu Pa, R. Lakshmikanta S/O Rangappa – (Bho. Pa)
6	364	Private	Dry	0.0177048	M.Lakshmidevamma W/O C Narasimhaiah N. Narasimhamurthy S/O C Narasimhaiah N Lakshminarayana S/O C Narasimhaiah
7	365	Private	Dry	0.10117	M. Rangaiah S/O Doddarangappa, M.R. Narasimhaiah S/O Doddarangappa
8	371	Private	Dry	0.123933	Kodihalli Kadarappa S/O Kadurappa
9	372	Private	Dry	0.139109	Narasaiah s/o Danaraya Narasappa
10	373/1	Private	Dry	0.0480558	Govindaraju s/o Narasimhamurthy
11	373/2	Private	Dry	0.0480558	Lakshmaiah s/o Narasimha Murthy
12	373/3	Private	Dry	0.050585	N Narasimha Murthy s/o Narasimha Murthy
13	374	Private	Dry	0.040468	Hanumantharayappa M.N. bin Late Narasimhaiah
14	375/2	Private	Dry	0.0177048	Ramesh s/o Late Narasaiah Ranganatha s/o Late Narasaiah Seebamma s/o Late Narasaiah Ammajamma s/o Late Narasaiah
15	375/3	Private	Dry	0.0177048	Narasamma w/o Late Rangappa
16	376	Private	Dry	0.040468	Badegowda S/O Dodamallegowda Ratnamma W/O Late Kamaraj
17	377	Private	Dry	0.0429973	Gubbinarasimhamayya S/O Kadurappa
18	378	Private	Dry	0.0354095	RK Druvakumar s/o Late Kanimaiah
19	379	Private	Dry	0.0455265	SR Rekha D/o Rajanna
Village: Borasandra					
20	121	Private	Dry/NAK	0.182106	Puttayamma Kom Eranna Lingamma Kom K. Karianna M. Srinivasamurthy bin Mahalingappa M. Srinivasamurthy bin Mahalingappa - (Bhoo.pa)
21	122	Common	Kharab/ Dry	0.204869	Government, GS Ramachandraswamy S/o Gurushivaramanna, GS Sashidhara S/O Gurushivaramanna GS Raghavendra S/O Gurushivaramanna Ankita .C S/O Late G K. Choudaiah
22	129/1	Private	DRY	0.0025293	Devaraju S/o Honneshappa
23	129/2	Private	DRY	0.0075878	G.H. Rajanna S/O Honneshappa
24	131/1	Private	DRY	0.0531143	Krishnappa S/O Chikkarianna GH Ranganatha S/O Honneshappa
25	131/2	Private	DRY	0.0328803	Devaraju S/O M. Kariyanna
26	131/3	Private	DRY	0.0177048	G.H.Ranganathan S/O Late Honneshappa
27	131/4	Private	DRY	0.0177048	Devaraju S/O M.Kariyanna Kariyanna S/O M.Kariyanna
28	132/1	Private	DRY	0.0050585	Ranganatha S/O Chikkariappa
29	132/2	Private	DRY	0.040468	Karianna S/O M. Karianna
30	133/2	Private	DRY	0.0151755	Shivanna S/O Chikkanna Kariamma w/o Shivanna Chikanna S/O Chikanna Bhagyamma w/o Chikanna
Village: Guligenahalli					
31	107	Private	NAK	0.123933	Puttaiah s/o late Malliah(Bhupa), Bharat M P Bin Late Malliah(Bhupa), Puttaiah s/o late Malliah(Bhupa), Bharat M P s/o late Malliah(Bhupa), Puttaiah s/o late Malliah(Bhupa), Bharat M P s/o late Malliah(Bhupa), Puttaiah s/o late Mallya(Bhupa), Bharat M P s/o late Mallya(Bhupa),
32	42/6	Private	DRY	0.0354095	Kariamma w/o Era Bommanna, Executive Engineer, P.R.I. Division, Madhugiri
33	42/7	Private	DRY	0.020234	Kariamma w/o Era Bommanna, Executive Engineer, P.R.I. Division, Madhugiri
34	42/8	Private	DRY	0.0252925	Lakshmamma w/o Late Kariyanna
35	43/1A	Private	DRY	0.0429973	Siddagangamma w/o Late G.P.Mallesh
36	48/7	Private	DRY	0.0075878	Chaya.K L S/o Late R. Kariyanna
37	50/11	Private	DRY	0.030351	Punita N R S/o N D Rangdhamayya
38	50/12	Private	DRY	0.0120139	Sannatayamma w/o Ranganna
39	50/13	Private	DRY	0.0025293	R Srirangappa alias Srirangappa Late Rangappa
40	50/14	Private	DRY	0.0126463	B Sowbhagyamma W/o B R Srirangappa
41	50/15	Private	DRY	0.0126463	Bandiranganath R S/o S R Ranganathappa
42	50/16	Private	DRY	0.080936	R Srirangappa alias Srirangappa Late Rangappa
43	50/2	Private	DRY	0.0025293	Kamalamma w/o Late Pathalingappa
44	51	Private	DRY	0.154284	Kariyanna S/o Obal Narasimhaiah, Srirangamma S/o G.H. Narasimhaiah Lakshmamma S/o Late Marianna, Rajamma S/o Marianna, G M Narasimhamurthy S/o Late Marianna, Nataraju M S/o Late Marianna Ranganathappa (13X9 yards) S/o Doddobalanna, Karianna S/o Allappa, Jayamma S/o Late Doddohonnappa, Karianna Srirangamma S/o G.H. Narasimhaiah, Kumuda w/o Raghavendra Prasad K Puttamma w/o G.P. Nagaraju Sannamuddappa S/o Muddappa, G. P. Eranna S/o Late Sanna Patanna, Thimmakka GP Eranna, Karimamma w/o GP Eranna G. P. Sivanna S/o Late sanna Pathanna chikkatayamma w/o Govindappa Hemalatha.N w/o S P Kumar N.R.Chetana w/o Ranganatha, S.R. NR Jyoti w/o Sivalingappa (51/1, 51/2, 51/3, 51/4, 51/6, 51/7, 51/8, 51/9, 51/10, 51/11, 51/13, 51/19, 51/20, 51/21)
45	56/10	Private	DRY	0.0025293	C. Venkatachalapathy S/o Chikkavenkatesh
46	56/11	Private	DRY	0.0126463	N. Narasimhaiah S/o Late Narasappa
47	56/2	Private	DRY	0.0025293	C.Rathnamma S/o Kurlappa, Lakkamma (55X 45 feet) w/o Iranna
48	56/3	Private	DRY	0.0025293	G.T.Narayanappa S/o Thimmarayappa, 25/25 Ft, Nanjamma w/o Late B M Lingachar
49	56/4	Private	DRY	0.010117	D. Ranganatha S/o Dasanna Ranganathappa S/o Rangappa Nagaraju S/o Rangappa B M. Lingachar S/o Mailarachar
50	56/6	Private	DRY	0.0050585	C. Venkatachalapathi S/O Chikka Venkatesh N. Narasimayya S/O Late Narasappa D. Ranganath S/O Dasanna, Ranganathappa S/O Rangappa, Nagaraju S/O Rangappa, B.M. Lingachaar S/O Mylaarachaar R. Pramila D/O Rangappa C. Venkatachalapathy S/o Chikkavenkatesh N. Narasimhaiah S/o Late Narasappa C.Rathnamma S/o Kurlappa, Lakkamma w/o Iranna G.T.Narayanappa S/o Thimmarayappa, , Nanjamma w/o Late B M Lingachar D. Ranganatha S/o Dasanna Ranganathappa S/o Rangappa Nagaraju S/o Rangappa B M. Lingachar S/o Mailarachar ThayiMuddamma w/o Srirangappa R. Pramila S/o Rangappa and
51	56/7	Private	DRY	0.0025293	C. Venkatachalapathi S/O Chikka Venkatesh N. Narasimayya S/O Late Narasappa D. Ranganath S/O Dasanna, Ranganathappa S/O Rangappa, Nagaraju S/O Rangappa, B.M. Lingachaar S/O Mylaarachaar R. Pramila D/O Rangappa C. Venkatachalapathy S/o Chikkavenkatesh N. Narasimhaiah S/o Late Narasappa C.Rathnamma S/o Kurlappa, Lakkamma w/o Iranna G.T.Narayanappa S/o Thimmarayappa, , Nanjamma w/o Late B M Lingachar D. Ranganatha S/o Dasanna Ranganathappa S/o Rangappa Nagaraju S/o Rangappa B M. Lingachar S/o Mailarachar ThayiMuddamma w/o Srirangappa R. Pramila S/o Rangappa
52	56/8	Private	DRY	0.0025293	ThayiMuddamma w/o Srirangappa 25*35 feet
53	56/9	Private	DRY	0.0075878	R. Pramila S/o Rangappa
54	57/1A2	Common	DRY	0.010117	Acquisition
55	57/1B	Common	DRY	0.0025293	Acquisition Kenchappa S/o Doddabandegowda
56	57/2C	Common	DRY	0.030351	Siddamma w/o Ranganna, Tahsildar, Shira Taluk - On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka
57	62/3	Private	DRY	0.0151755	Chandranna S/o Puttanaganna
58	64/12	Private	DRY	0.0050585	Natesh G.M. S/o GB Muddanna.
59	64/15	Private	DRY	0.0025293	Muddanna S/o Late Beeralingappa
60	64/1B	Private	DRY	0.0429973	Nagalingappa
61	64/3A1	Private	DRY	0.030351	Srirangappa Nagan Nagaraju Mallamma w/o Sivashankar Parvathamma w/o Subbanna Naganna
62	64/3A2	Private	DRY	0.0025293	Nagaratnamma w/o Late S. R. Ranganathappa
63	64/3C	Private	DRY	0.0025293	Natesh G.M. S/o GB Muddanna. Muddanna S/o Late Beeralingappa. Nagalingappa Srirangappa Nagan Nagaraju Mallamma w/o Sivashankar Parvathamma w/o Subbanna Naganna Nagaratnamma w/o Late S. R. Ranganathappa K S Mahadevappa S/o Chikka Sanjeevappa Rajanna S/o Kenchappa Bandi Ranganatha R..s/o S. R. Ranganathappa, Bharat G.R. .s/o S. R. Ranganathappa Rajanna S/O Late Kenchappa, Basavaraju S/O Late Kenchappa, Jayaramappa S/O Late Kenchappa Shrirangappa, Naganna, Nagaraju, Mallamma W/O Shivashankar, Parvathamma W/O subbanna, Naganna G.K.Nagalakshmamma W/O D. Ramachandrappa Headmaster of Government High School, Guligenahalli
64	64/6	Private	DRY	0.0050585	K S Mahadevappa S/o Chikka Sanjeevappa
65	64/7	Private	DRY	0.0050585	Rajanna S/o Kenchappa
66	64/9	Private	DRY	0.0050585	Bandi Ranganatha R. s/o S. R. Ranganathappa, Bharat G.R. s/o S. R. Ranganathappa
67	67	Private	DRY/NAK	0.250513	Puttiramma w/o Sivaramaiah Ranganna S/o Sannamuddanna G K Ranganatha s/o Kariyanna K.S.Mahadevappa (20X25) s/o Chikkasanjeevappa,, Thimmanna (20X25) s/o Maranna, Thimmarajamma (20X25) s/o Narasappa, K.SMahadevappa (20x25) s/o Chikkasanjeevappa Nagaraju s/o Kariyanna-(Bhoo Pa), Nagaraju s/o Kariyanna (67/1, 67/2, 67/4, 67/5, 67/7)
68	68	Government	Dry	0.0940408	Government Kharabu Sendivana For the purpose of construction of the Government Pre University College Guligenahalli The Principal of the Government Pre University College, Guligenahalli has reserved it for him In the village of Guligenahalli D. Devaraju Urs Backward Classes Pre Matric Boys Hostel Reserved for the purpose of establishment by the Backward Classes Welfare Department
Village: Nyayagere					
69	101	Private	Dry	0.2579835	Karnataka Electricity Board Shira Power Station
70	15/19	Private	Dry	0.0025293	Bommakka w/o Late Doddanagappa
71	15/2	Private	Dry	0.0126463	Rangamma w/o Muddappa
72	15/20	Private	Dry	0.020234	B.V. Latha w/o Ramakrishnappa
73	15/21	Private	Dry	0.0151755	R. Krishnamurthy s/o Ranganarasappa
74	15/23	Private	Dry	0.0177048	Sannalingamma w/o Late Kalappa
75	15/25	Private	Dry	0.0151755	Nagaraju s/o Late Rangappa
76	15/3B	Private	Dry	0.0025293	Naganna s/o Late Kempanaganna Mahadevamma c/o Ranganathappa Muddaraju s/o Late Kempanaganna
77	15/8	Private	Dry	0.0227632	NEETA GANNA w/o PRAVEEN GANNA
78	25/1A	Private	Dry	0.0025293	Manjunath G S/o Late Gangadharappa
79	70	Private	Dry/NAK	0.0354095	GK Karianna. s/o Late Kalappa Sakinabhi w/o Abdul Rashid Saab, R. Nagendra s/o Ranganna (Bhoo Pa) C.Rekha Nagendra w/o Nagendra R (Bhoo Pa) Marutisha H s/o Late Hanumaiah Ranganathappa s/o Late Ranganna, Subbanna s/o Late Ranganna Bommakka w/o Late Doddanagappa Rangamma w/o Ramanna Netravati Mai Gas mother Vasudha L. s/o Lingaraju, Narayanappa s/o Subbanna, Narayanappa s/o Subbanna Nagaraju s/o Late Kalappa Hafiz Ullah Khan s/o Sikandar Ali Khan Munawar G s/o Ghausab (70/1, 70/4, 70/5, 70/6, 70/8, 70/9, 70/10, 70/11, 70/12, 70/13, 70/14, 70/21, 70/22)
80	75/1	Private	Dry	0.091053	Taranam-Ara-Khanam w/o Shafi Ahmed
81	75/3	Private	Dry	0.040468	Rajanna s/o Late Boranna
Village: Halkuru					
82	101/2	Private	Dry	0.0151755	Nagesh Prasad S. s/o Satyaprabhakarchar.L. Lakshmikanthappa s/o Late Govindappa Renukamma H.T. w/o Late K.G.Kumara Manjula G. D/o Late Govindappa Geetha D/o Late Govindappa
83	108	Private	Dry	0.116345	kharab C. Sivanna s/o Chikkanna chikkanna s/o Muddanna chikkanna s/o Muddanna Dasappa s/o Dasappa Sakamma w/oLate N Govindappa
84	109	Private	Dry	0.460323	Sannamma w/o Late Lingappa
85	114	Private	Dry	0.080936	Ningappa w/o Late Mallegowda.
86	115	Private	Dry	0.106229	SR Kiran Kumar bin SB Ramachandrappa
87	30	Private	Dry	0.460323	Rangappa s/o Boranna Nagaraju s/o Boranna Narayanappa s/o Dodaiah Jyoti Ranganath Lakshmi K.N.w/o Naveen Kumar Annapurnamma w/o Late Ashwath Boregowda s/o Mahalingappa
88	36/13	Private	Dry	0.0025293	R. Ganganna s/o Roopa Lingappa, Manjunath s/o Rajanna B, . Harisha H.N s/o Narasimhamurthy
89	36/17	Private	Dry	0.0025293	R. Ganganna . s/o Roopa Lingappa,
90	37/1	Private	Dry	0.0177048	TV Sudha w/o V Shivaram
91	38/8	Private	Dry	0.0025293	Thimmanna s/o Late Ramaiah, Vanajakshi bin Thimmanna
92	38/9	Private	Dry	0.0151755	Govindappa s/o Late Ramaiah Bhudevamma w/o Govindappa
93	40/2	Private	Dry	0.0252925	Rohit B.R. s/o Late Ramakrishnappa H
94	40/5	Private	DRY	0.0075878	Shivalingappa J. s/o Late Javanegowda
95	40/6	Private	DRY	0.030351	K. Ranganathappa S/o Late Kamanna
96	41/1F2	Private	DRY	0.141638	MN Sivakumar S/o M. Nanjappa
Village: Halkuru Kaval					
97	67/2	Private	Dry	0.108758	Ramakka w/O obalanayaka
98	68/2	Private	Dry	0.0050585	Obalamma D/o late Eebalanayaka Obaliah, Manjamma D/o late Eebalanayaka Obaliah, .Siddhagangamma D/o late Eebalanayaka Obaliah, Bhagyamma D/o late Eebalanayaka Obaliah, Shivamma D/o late Eebalanayaka Obaliah
99	70	Private	Dry	0.0834653	Lakshmaiah s/o Eerappa
100	71	Private	Dry	0.0632313	Sivalingappa S/o Kariyanna
101	72	Private	Dry	0.343978	N. Rangappa S/o Narasappa
Village: Gummanahalli					
102	39/4	Private	GARDEN	0.070819	Dasanna. S/o Late Chikkanna
103	45/1	Private	GARDEN	0.0025293	Ranganna S/o Chikkatimmanna
104	45/3	Private	GARDEN	0.0859945	Rangappa S/o G. Nagappa
105	46/2	Private	Dry	0.0075878	Chittamma W/o Dasappa
106	47/1A1	Private	GARDEN	0.0531143	Dodakka W/o Dyavarappa Chittamma W/o Dyavarappa Yarrapa G. Thimmaiah S/O Dasappa Thimmanna S/O Ranganna Dasappa S/O Chikkadasappa Rangamma W/O Eeramariyappa, Kariyamma W/O Late E Eeranna, Chikkamarakka W/O Doddanna Dodakka W/O Dyavarappa Chittamma W/O Dyavarappa Yarrapa
107	47/1B	Private	GARDEN	0.227632	Dodakka W/o Dyavarappa Chittamma W/o Dyavarappa Yarrapa
108	48/1A	Private	GARDEN	0.0733482	Dayananda S/o Durgaiah Krishnarao S/o K.N. Devarao Rajanna S/o Hanuman
109	54/1A	Private	Dry	0.0151755	Rangamma W/o late Kadurappa
110	54/3	Private	Dry	0.356624	Kariamma W/o Late Mahalingaiah
111	55/1	Private	GARDEN	0.151755	GN Roopa D/o Nanjegowda
112	77/18	Private	Dry	0.0025293	Eramma w/o thimmanna
113	77/20	Private	Dry	0.0632313	Humera B M W/o Hannan Ahmed
114	77/6	Private	Dry	0.0480558	Sanneeramma W/o Ranganna
115	77/9	Private	Dry	0.020234	Dyavaramma, W/o Siddhana.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Village: Emmerahalli					
116	32/3	Private	Dry	0.0025293	Govindappa S/o Kadappa, Sannathimmanna S/o Kadappa
117	32/4	Private	Dry	0.0429973	Eramma W/o Siddanna Govindappa alias Govindaraju S S/o Late Siddanna
118	32/8	Private	Dry	0.020234	Puttaraju D S/o Dodalli Thimmaiah
119	4/1	Private	NAK	0.536201	Virupakshamma w/o Late Puttarangachar H.M. (Bhoo.Pa.)
120	4/2	Private	Dry	0.010117	Virupakshama late Puttarangachar H.M., President of India, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, National Highway No. 48
121	6/21	Private	Dry	0.0126463	Siddanna D S/o Doddulli Thimmaiah
122	6/4	Private	Dry	0.0177048	Eramma W/o Late Siddanna Govindappa alias Govindaraju S S/o Late Siddanna
123	6/5	Private	Dry	0.0126463	Doddayarappas/o Dho Thimmaiah D. Thimmanna G. Yaranna
Village: Taggihalli					
124	1/6	Private	Dry	0.118875	Doddiranna s/o Late Kaduranna Urup Kadurappa
Village: Rathnasandra					
125	146	Private	Kharab/Dry	0.222574	Chandrappa s/o Kambanna, Rangamma w/o Mallanna, Nanjamma w/o Thimmaiah, Kalyanakumar s/o Maradi Ranganathappa, Rajanna s/o Iramallappa, Karnataka Government Space, MN Premasudha w/o Venkataramaiah D. L. Puttamma w/o M Puttaswamy
TALUK: MADHUGIRI					
Village: Lakshmipura (Venkatapura)					
126	6/1	Private	WET	0.040468	Annapurnamma W/o Veerabhadraiah D. V. Chandrasekharaiah S/o Late Veerabhadraiah
127	7/1	Private	WET	0.010117	Siddaiah S/o Chigasiddaiah Rangappa S/o Doddeerappa. Bandaveerappa
Village: Dodderi					
128	120/2	Private	Dry	0.0050585	Sivalingappa v S/O Veeranna
129	123/2	Private	DRY	0.0278217	Gopamma W/O K. Kanimanna
130	124/2	Private	GARDEN	0.0126463	K. Basavaraju S/O Lt. Kodappa
131	139/4B	Private	WET	0.0025293	S. Parameshwarappa S/O Lt. Siddalingappa
132	139/4C1	Private	WET	0.010117	G.K.Nagaraju S/O Lt.Kempanaganna Veera Nagappa S/O Lt.Kempanaganna G.PandurangappaS/O Lt.Kempanaganna K.Srirangappa S/O Lt.Kempanaganna
133	139/4C2	Private	WET	0.0075878	Rajamma W/O Late Veerakyathappa
134	141	Private	WET	0.0455265	S. Parameshwarappa S/o Late. Siddalingappa
135	142/3	Private	DRY/ Garden	0.010117	Chandrashekariah S/o Late Veerabhadraiah
136	143	Private	Dry	0.010117	Government
137	144/9B	Common	Kharab/ Dry	0.0151755	Government
Village: Badavanahalli					
138	186/1	Private	Dry	0.050585	C.Ranganath S/o Chikrangappa
139	186/2	Private	Dry	0.0455265	Narasimha Murthy S/o Late Chikkarangappa
140	186/3	Private	Dry	0.060702	B.C.Nagaraju S/o Late Chikrangappa
141	186/4	Private	Dry	0.010117	Manjunath M s/o Jayaramappa
142	186/5	Private	Dry	0.0151755	Nagaraju G. H. S/o Hanumanthan
143	193/1	Private	Dry	0.0379387	Sarojamma w/o Rangashyamayya
144	193/2	Private	Dry	0.0733482	Lingamma w/o K S Ranganna, R Nagaraju S/o K S Ranganna
145	193/3	Private	Dry	0.040468	Rangalakshmi w/o Ramakrishnappa
146	193/4	Private	Dry	0.0581727	Nirmala W/o G.S. Shashikumar
147	193/5	Private	Dry	0.020234	Rakesh B. S. S/o Srinivas B. R.
148	206	Private	Dry	0.0885237	Kariappa S/o Narasappa Kadurappa S/o Narasappa Rangappa S/o Narasappa Hanumanthappa S/o Narasappa Dyavarappa S/o Narasappa Khadrappa S/o Narasappa N.Nagaraju S/o Late Narasimhaiah
149	207	Private	Dry	0.0758775	Kariappa S/o Narsappa Rangappa S/o Narsappa Hanumanthappa S/o Narsappa Dyavarappa S/o Narsappa Khadrappa S/o Narsappa Kadurappa S/o Narsappa Kamanna S/o Rangappa Hanumayya S/o Anjinappa Jawarappa S/o Kamanna
150	228/1	Private	Dry	0.0758775	Sarala S/o Late Ramachandramurthy Bhishajamurthy S/o Late Ramachandramurthy Kovidamurthy s/o Late Ramachandramurthy
151	229/1	Private	Dry	0.0252925	Srikumar S/o Doddachoudappa
152	229/2	Private	Dry	0.0455265	Srikumar S/o Doddachoudappa.
153	229/3	Private	Dry	0.0531143	Srikumar S/o Doddachoudappa
154	229/4	Private	Dry	0.060702	Srikumar S/o Doddachoudappa.
155	40/4B	Private	NAK	0.0050585	N A Kharabu
156	40/5B	Private	NAK	0.0050585	N A Kharabu
157	40/6	Private	Dry	0.0025293	Sivaraju bin Nanjanna
158	44/4	Private	Dry	0.020234	Nagaratnamma w/o Mohan Murthy H
159	46/2	Private	Dry/ Garden	0.0354095	BV Panduranga S/o BG Venkataramaiah Shetty (Bhoo,pa) BV Panduranga S/o BG Venkataramaiah Shetty BV Panduranga S/o BG Venkataramaiah Shetty (Bhoo.pa)
160	47	Private	Kharab/ Dry	0.010117	Government lake
161	55	Private	Kharab/ Dry	0.197282	Government pada
Village: Apanahalli					
162	28/14	Private	Dry	0.0379387	Rudraya Shivarudraya Rachappa
163	28/5	Private	Dry	0.10117	Rudraya Shivarudraya Rachappa
164	29/1	Private	GARDEN	0.0682898	Obalaiah s/o Doddachinnappa Lakshmamma w/o Late Nagarajappa Manjunath s/o Bettappa Muddanagappa s/o Obalaiah
165	29/11	Private	GARDEN	0.0252925	B.O. Rangaiah s/o Obalaiah
166	29/12	Private	GARDEN	0.0252925	B.O. Rajanna s/o Obalaiah
167	29/2	Private	NAK	0.0632313	Nagaraju G.M. s/o Maranna (Bhoo.Pa)
168	29/5	Private	GARDEN	0.0278217	Manjunath s/o Late Bettappa
169	29/6	Private	GARDEN	0.0252925	Srinivasa s/o Bettappa
170	29/7	Private	GARDEN	0.0480558	D. Channappa s/o Doddchannappa
171	30/14	Private	Dry	0.0126463	Obalaiah s/o Doddhachannappa
172	30/3	Private	NAK	0.010117	N.A. Kharabu
173	30/7	Private	Dry	0.010117	R Jayanna s/o Rangappa Malamma w/o Late Govindappa
174	32/10	Private	Dry	0.010117	T.G.Chandan. S/o Late T.S. Gurudev
175	32/7B	Private	NAK	0.0227632	Manohar G S/o Late TS Gurudev, N. A. Kharabu
176	32/8	Private	Kharab/ NAK	0.0227632	N. A. Kharabu Srikanthaiah S/o A Chenna Basappa Srikanthaiah S/o A Chenna Basappa
177	32/9	Private	Dry	0.010117	Manohar G S/o Late T.S. Gurudev
178	48/1	Private	Dry	0.0151755	Narasimhaiah S/o Late Lingappa Kanimaiah S/o Late Lingappa Maranna S/o Late Lingappa DN Ramanna S/o Late Dodnarasappa Obalamma w/o Puttalingaiah
179	49/1	Private	Dry	0.0025293	Nagaratnamma w/o Chikkarudrappa.
180	60	Private	Dry	0.0328803	D.T.Thimmarayappa S/o Late Thimmaiah, Toomaiah s/o Late Moodlappa
181	61/1	Private	Dry	0.010117	D.T. Chikka Thimmaiah S/o Thimmaiah
182	62/1	Private	Dry	0.0151755	D.T. Chikka Thimmaiah S/o Thimmaiah
183	63/2	Private	Dry	0.0227632	Jayaramayya S/o Venkatappa
184	64/2	Private	Dry	0.030351	Jayaramayya S/o Venkatappa
185	65	Private	Dry	0.030351	G Srinivas S/o Late Govindappa, Kamalamma S/o Late Govindappa,
186	66	Private	Dry	0.0278217	G Srinivas S/o Late Govindappa, Kamalamma S/o Late Govindappa
187	67	Private	Dry	0.0328803	Nagaraja S/o Venkatappa
188	68/5	Private	Dry	0.0379387	Puttathimmakka w/o LT Bheemanna
189	69/4	Private	Dry	0.030351	Honnappa G S/o Govindappa
190	70	Private	Dry	0.154284	Krishnappa S/o Late Narasimhaiah
Village: Badavanahalli amrutmahal Kavl					
191	180	Private	Kharab	0.0556435	Government
192	185	Private	Dry	0.144167	Government Indira Horticulture Sector. Badavanahalli.Horticulture Department.Madhugiri Taluk. Tumkur District
193	186	Private	Dry	0.0354095	Government Kharab
194	189	Private	DRY	0.156813	D.L. Kattappa bin Linganayaka
195	190	Private	DRY	0.128992	D.L. Kattappa bin Linganayaka
196	191	Private	DRY	0.227632	Government Kharab
197	195	Private	DRY	0.159343	Government Kharab
198	199	Private	DRY	0.0429973	Government Kharab
199	200	Private	DRY	0.184635	Government Kharab
200	202	Private	DRY	0.118875	Gramthana
201	204	Private	DRY	0.040468	Muddamma w/o Karerangappa, Ammajakka w/o Doddarangappa
202	206	Private	DRY	0.209928	Government Kharab
Village: Konnahalli					
203	10	Private	Dry/NAK	0.298451	K. Vishwanath S/o K. Karegowda Obakka S/o Late Hanumanna, Rangamma S/o Late Hanumanna, Hanumantharayappa S/o Late Hanumanna, Eranna S/o Late Hanumanna, Puttamma S/o Late Hanumanna, Jayamma S/o Late Hanumanna Ramanna S/o Late Hanumanna, Ratnamma S/o Late Hanumanna, obanayaka S/o Chikkobanayaka, Badaobanayaka S/o Chikkobanayaka, Bhimanna S/o Chikkobanayaka, Ramanna S/o Chikkobanayaka Hanumantarayappa S/o Papanayaka, Nagaratna D/o Late Eranna, Jayalakshmi D/o Late Eranna, R Malathi W/o Late E Gopalakrishna, Gayatri B G W/O Late Govind Raj E Narasimharaju S/o Late Rangappa, Yashodamma W/o Late Gangadharaiah, Tippeiraiah S/o Chikkiraiah, Hanumantaraju S/o Late Narasimhaiah Puttamma W/o Maradi Rangaiah K. Kamanna S/o Kamanna, Obanayaka Iranna Bada Obanayaka Ramanayaka Hanumanayaka Hanumantarayappa S/o Papanayaka , Village Settlement , Chikkobanayaka, Obanayaka, Director of Publication Inspector (10/1,10/2,10/3,10/5,10/4A)
204	104	Private	Dry	0.0050585	K Chikrangappa S/o Karianna, K Ramakrishna S/o Karianna
205	110	Private	DRY	0.0227632	K. Ranganatha S/O K. Karegowda
206	112	Private	Dry	0.0050585	Rangamma s/o Late Rangappa Puttamma s/o Late Rangappa Ratnamma w/o late Puttarangappa Banappa s/o Late Rangappa Nagaraju s/o Late Rangappa
207	116	Private	Dry	0.0050585	G.M. Nagaraju bin Maranna
208	144	Private	Dry	0.0354095	Ramaswamy s/o Late Karianna Eshwarappa s/o Late Karianna Nagaraju s/o Late Karianna Suresh s/o Late Karianna Karianna s/o Late Karianna
209	20/2	Private	Dry/NAK	0.0025293	N.N.A
210	218	Private	Dry	0.16946	Srikumar S/o Doddachoudappa
211	55	Private	Kharab	0.010117	Gundutopu
212	6/3A	Private	WET	0.0025293	Srinivasa w/o Dodalingappa
213	75/1	Private	GARDEN	0.0025293	Ranganathappa s/o late de Kamanna, Kenchamma w/o late de Kamanna
214	75/5	Private	GARDEN	0.0025293	Mallanna S/O Late Dadappa
215	75/6	Private	GARDEN	0.0025293	Dadaraju S/O Late Putta Kamanna
216	75/7	Private	GARDEN	0.0025293	Bommanna S/O Late Dadappa
217	79	Private	Dry	0.0758775	Sitarama D H S/O Hanumanthaiah
218	83/6	Private	Dry	0.0429973	K Chikkarangappa S/o Karianna
Village: Konapanayakanahalli					
219	23	Private	GARDEN	0.0278217	Narayanappa S/o Late na Govindappa Thimmanna S/oLate na Govindappa Venkatachalappa S/o Late na Govindappa
220	24/1	Private	Dry	0.0025293	Sivakumar S/o Late. KM Kannappa Shailakumari S/o Late. KM Kannappa Annapurnamma s/o Late. KM Kannappa puspalatha s/o late. KM Kannappa
			Total	**12.5146732**	

[F. No. CNH/TA-3/AE-4/NH-69/3(a) 2024-25/3A/3D]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/AWP&B/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ತಾಸ–1/2025–26/ 2243 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.03.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ.: ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಇಬ್ರಾಹಿಂಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಹೊಸ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. (RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT22437 /CALL-2) **2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:** 2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅ. ಮಂ. (PAB)AWP&B ಯೋಜನೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ 112.09 ಲಕ್ಷ 4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:3ನೇ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ದರ್ಜೆ **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 26.03.2026 ರಿಂದ 06.04.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 06.04.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರೀಕ:** 08.04.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ:** 13.04.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **10) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. **11) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:** https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in

ಸೂಚನೆ:– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರ/609/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಎ/2025–26

(Govt. of Karnataka)
KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBBALLI
OfficePhone : 0836-2373348 E-mail ID : directorkimshubli@gmail.com
No. : KMCRI/ADHOC/444/2025-26 Dated 25.03.2026

WALK-IN INTERVIEW

KMC & RI, Hubballi invites application for the Post of Assistant Professor for various departments on cotnract basis. Interested & eligible candidates may attend Walk-in-Interview.

Details of qualification, experience and salary are available on Institute website :https://kmcrihubballi.karnataka.gov.in/english

Sd/- Director
Karnataka Medical College & Research Institute, Hubballi

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Karnataka Government Secretariat, Vikasa Soudha, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru.
NO: DOH 57 RERA 2026 Dated: 24-03-2026

NOTIFICATION

The detailed notification inviting Applications from eligible persons for the Post of One Technical / Administrative Member of the Karnataka Real Estate Appellate Tribunal is Posted on the RERA Website: **www.rera.karnataka.gov.in**

Interested Persons may Apply by 23.04.2026 till 5.00 PM.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(MOHAN RAJ K.P.)
Secretary to Government,
Housing Department.

DIPR/CP/6445/Adverto/2025-26

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B No. 5531, Bengaluru - Pune Highway, Bengaluru-560055
Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886,
Website: **www.mysoresandal.org** E-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**
An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company
Date: 25.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** with respect to supply of following Goods/ Services/Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published Date	Last date of Submission
1	KSDL/2025-26/SE0190/ CALL-2	Engaging of job work for the production and shrink wrapping of various soaps in toilet soap division/SEP on tonnage basis for the period of one year	Services	25.03.2026	10.04.2026
2	KSDL/2025-26/IND1159	Procurement of Standard Desktop PC	25 Nos.	25.03.2026	09.04.2026

For any queries contact the undersigned.

Sd/- Asst.Gen. Manager (Materials)

High Court of Karnataka
High Court Buildings, Bengaluru-560 001
No. HCRB/ACS-1/2026 (RPC) Date: 16.03.2026
No. HCRB/ACS-2/2026 (KKR)

BRIEF NOTIFICATION

Online applications are invited by High Court of Karnataka for **filling up of 70 posts of Assistant Court Secretary (59 posts under Residual Parent Cadre including 06 backlog post and 11 posts under Kalyana Karnataka Region including 07 backlog posts).** Pay scale of the said Post is **Rs. 44,900/- Rs. 1,42,400/-.** The Last date for submission of online application is **15th April, 2026 till 11.59 p.m.**

Eligible candidates are required to apply only through 'Online' by visiting the official website of High Court of Karnataka at **www.judiciary.karnataka.gov.in** No other means/mode of applications will be accepted. The Notification and other details are available in the above mentioned portal and in the official Gazette (e-Gazette) of Karnataka **dated: 16.03.2026**

Sd/- (K.S. Bharath Kumar)
Registrar General,
High Court of Karnataka,
DIPR/DD-C.P/6442/KSMCA/2025-26 Bengaluru

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. RWF/M/OT/MWFPS/ 2025-26/96RT Dated 24.03.2026

E-Tender: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website **http://www. ireps.gov.in** (Works).

Tender No.: RWF/M/OT/MWFPS/2025-26/96RT **Dtd:** 24.03.2026. **Name of the Work:** Rerouting of the water pipelines & servicing of cooling blower of Draw furnace and painting of chimneys in Normalizing furnace. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 4,18,300/-. **EMD:** Rs. 8,400/-. **Completion Period:** 06 Months. **Date of Closing of Tenders:** 15.04.2026 at 10:30 Hrs.

The above Tender details can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in.**

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/W-II

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
YELAHANKA,
BENGALURU – 560 064.
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE No. : RWF/M/M&P/OT/ AFM/2025-26/03-RT dt: 24.03.2026

E-TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the **Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer** invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works).**

Tender No. RWF/M/M&P/OT/AFM/2025-26/ 03-RT dated: 24.03.2026
Name of work: Conversion of LPG to PNG of Billet Cutting Machine (BCMC) and Axle End cutting Machine (ACMC) in Old Axle Forge Line (OAFL) on turnkey basis as per theTechnical Specification and Scope of work.
Estimated Cost: ₹1,20,18,300/-.
EMD: ₹2,10,100/-.
Completion period: 24 Months
Closing Date & Time for Tenders: 16.04.2026 at 10.30 Hrs.
This tender notice can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in**
Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer/Projects

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ
ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ದೂ: 080–27833730 E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_hebbagodi@yahoo.com | Website: www.hebbagodicity.mrc.gov.in
ಸಂ:ಹೆ.ನ.ಸ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ನೋ/ಸಿಆರ್/23/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **07 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ** ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 1 ರಿಂದ 07 ರವರೆಗಿನ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:24.03.2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:08.04.2026ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ** ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು. ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 48.60ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.49.76 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.**

1	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56309 (Reserved for ST)	2	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56315 (Reserved for CAT-1)
3	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56314	4	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56317
5	DMA/2025-26/SE7485	6	DMA/2025-26/SE7526
7	DMA/2025-26/SE7527		

ಸಹಿ/– ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಜಾತ ಹರೀಶ್ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಜಾತ ಕೆ.ಪಿ. ರಾಜು ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/ 6446/2025–26
ಸಹಿ/– ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ ಜಯರಾಮ್ ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಬಿ.ಎಲ್, ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bengaluru Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-01.
Phone: 080-22133370
No. 67/2025-26 Date: 24.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, **Doddaballapura, Hoskote, Anekal and No.2 North** Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification are Published **for 04 Works (Rs. 3.17 to 60.00 Lakhs).** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.**

For Sl.No. 01 & 02
(1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on Dated: 02.04.2026. (2)** The opening of tenders through KPP portal on **Dated: 04.04.2026 at 11.30 AM** or further date and time will be Intimated.

For Sl.No. 03 & 04
(1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on Dated: 08.04.2026. (2)** The opening of tenders through KPP portal on **Dated: 09.04.2026 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be Intimated.

For more details contact this office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer.
DIPR/DD-C.P/6438/KSMCA/2025-26

LOOKING TO BUILD, BUY OR SELL A PROPERTY

Please refer Classifieds on Sunday

Magnitude of financial burden can't sway fair compensation: SC

Says landowners cannot be permitted to reopen old, stale claims

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said the constitutional guarantee of just compensation cannot be contingent upon the magnitude of the financial burden, and that mere escalation in the projected liability, howsoever significant, does not constitute, per se, a valid ground for review or modification of its judgment.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan refused to reconsider the judgment in Tarsem Singh II on a National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) claim that the financial burden projected to the apex court in the course of arguments was based on a clerical error.

"Once a judgment or an order passed by a court in a particular case has attained finality and is not the subject matter of further challenge before a prescribed forum, a subsequent change in the judicial interpretation would not entail a reversal of such a decision inter se the parties to that case," the bench said.

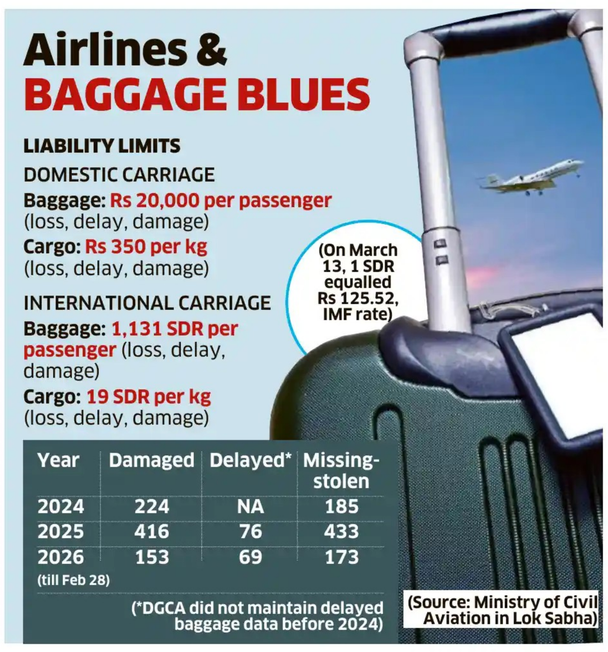
In its judgment, the court, however, said that while the landowners might be entitled to solatium and interest, they could not be permitted to reopen old, stale claims which had been decided conclusively by a court of law.

The court had earlier dismissed the National Highways Authority of India's application seeking clarification on whether the September 19, 2019, judgment passed by its coordinate bench in Union of India and another Vs Tarsem Singh and others (Tarsem Singh-I) would apply prospectively.

Seeking review of the order, the NHAI said the actual liability towards payment of solatium and interest to all landowners was not Rs 100 crore but approximately Rs 29,000 crore.

The bench said the court had unequivocally held that the fiscal implications of granting solatium and interest could not override the substantive entitlement of land-losers. "There is, consequently, no occasion for us to reconsider our decision in Tarsem Singh-II on this ground," the bench said.

The bench, however, also said, "We deem it appropriate to clarify that each claim for this entitlement cannot be treated in the same way. We say so for the reason that, in many cases, the landowners have chosen to approach different authorities... for the grant of 'solatium' and 'interest' decades after the cases regarding the quantum of the land acquisition compensation for their lands stood closed."


Airlines &
BAGGAGE BLUES
LIABILITY LIMITS
DOMESTIC CARRIAGE
Baggage: Rs 20,000 per passenger (loss, delay, damage)
Cargo: Rs 350 per kg (loss, delay, damage)
INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE
Baggage: 1,131 SDR per passenger (loss, delay, damage)
Cargo: 19 SDR per kg (loss, delay, damage)
(On March 13, 1 SDR equalled Rs 125.52, IMF rate)
Year | Damaged | Delayed* | Missing-stolen
2024 | 224 | NA | 185
2025 | 416 | 76 | 433
2026 (till Feb 28) | 153 | 69 | 173
(*DGCA did not maintain delayed baggage data before 2024)
(Source: Ministry of Civil Aviation in Lok Sabha)

SC refuses to consider plea against MHA's 'Vande Matram' circular

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to consider a plea against a Home Ministry circular on singing the national song "Vande Mataram" at official events, saying that the directive was not mandatory and that the petitioner's concerns were only "some vague apprehensions of discrimination".

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi told petitioner Muhammed Sayeed Noori, represented by senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, that the plea was premature and that he might approach the court if he were to face any penal action.

When the petitioner's counsel insisted that patriotism could not be compelled, the apex court asked, "It can't be compelled even for the national anthem?"

Hegde submitted that if people were compelled to sing the song irrespective of their religion and faith, some might find it a compulsion to participate in the "social demonstration of loyalty".

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, who was present in the court for another matter, said, "Do we need to be advised to respect the national song?" He also pointed out that there is a sense of respect for certain national emblems.

The bench said, "You have been right to indicate it does not include a national song... The national song is as much an expression of the species of national identity. You may have a different point of view."

It added: "Clause 5 of the Union government directive says 'may'. This freedom is as much to sing national song as not to sing. That is why it does not fall foul of legal rights." The court said it seemed petitioner had some vague apprehensions of discrimination.

Apex court raps Gurugram Police over insensitive handling of child rape case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday rapped the Gurugram Police for its "shameful" and "insensitive" handling of a case involving the rape of a three-year-old, calling it "repeated victimisation of the child" and "the worst form of disrespect to the victim".

The court said the police appeared completely oblivious to the "very definition of rape", terming the conduct "deeply distressing".

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi constituted a special investigation team (SIT) of women IPS officers to conduct a fair investigation into the crime that took place in Gurugram.

The bench asked the Haryana government to notify the SIT immediately, and directed the Gurugram Police to hand over the case records to the probe panel.

The court was hearing a petition seeking a court-monitored probe into the incident, in which two housemaids and their male associates are accused of sexually assaulting the minor.

The bench issued show-cause notices to Gurugram Police officials, asking why action should not be taken against them for the shoddy investigation. It also issued a show-cause notice to the Gurugram Child Welfare Committee (CWC) as to why they should not be removed.

The court observed that the entire police force made every attempt to prove that the child had no proof, and that the parents did not have a case. "There is no room for doubt that an offence under Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act was apparently committed," the bench said.

The top court then directed the Gurugram district judge to entrust the case to a senior woman judicial officer presiding over a Pocso court in the city. The court also castigated the police for downgrading the offence from a harsher provision in its FIR filed under the Pocso Act.

The bench also slammed the police's understanding and sensitivity regarding an offence against a child after the latter gave her statement, in which she clearly asserted the details of the incident.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

I KNOW SOME OF YOU HAVE BEEN AGONIZING OVER WHETHER YOU'RE GETTING A CHRISTMAS BONUS!
WELL...WONDER NO MORE! I'M CONSIDERING IT!
THANKS, BOSS!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
WOO HOO!
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY!
WELL, I'M CONSIDERING IT
12-15

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

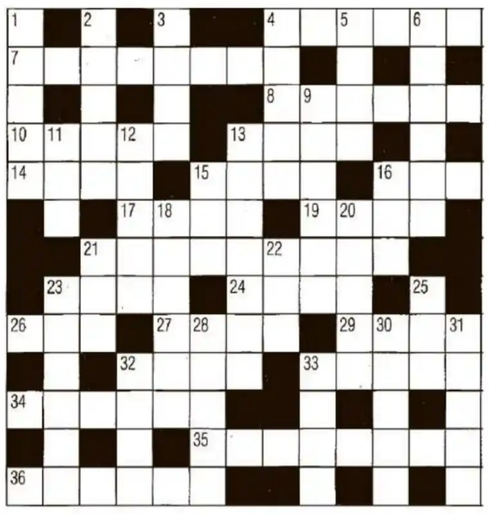
COOKIE!
WHY ARE YOU WAKING ME UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
BECAUSE I DON'T NEED A MIDNIGHT SNACK IN THE MORNING
GREG MORT WALKER
12/2

Peanuts

Marvin

TODAY I GOT CAPTURED BY A FIRE-BREATHING BEING FROM ANOTHER GALAXY
...WHO FORCED ME INTO A CORNER!!
HOW LONG OF A "TIMEOUT" DID YOUR TEACHER GIVE YOU?

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12381



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Means trouble, though the damage is slight (6)
7 What no winner is out for (3,5)
8 Property in eye-opening condition (6)
10 A first attempt at fighting outside the ring (5)
13 Blends from the East (4)
14 Left a dandy out as a failure (4)
15 One way to get fifty quid? (4)
16 No working girl, but can make a bed (3)
17 When I get run out, it's simply the end (4)
19 Eager to help out Victor (4)
21 Shed no longer wanted (9)
23 Spy associated with a Toad? (4)
24 Fishy looking singer (4)
26 Infantile enthusiast? (3)
27 Pretty thin entertainment? (4)
29 Faithful? Very! (4)
32 An air of sympathy? (4)
33 Search around for a favourite place (5)
34 Offence, however slight? (6)
35 A blown up sort of diagram! (8)
36 Relatively impecunious dealer? (6)

DOWN
1 Polish workers, sturdy and straight! (5)
2 Ran into a bit of trouble on the tube (5)
3 Name the chap to get past (4)
4 To thieve, we hear, is something hard (5)
5 Can they break softly out of traps? (4)
6 Shot up to the top before Ted (6)
9 Dishes a chap in the SAS (6)
11 In the doldrums, maybe less active (3)
12 When the odd pair went to Leatherhead (5)
13 Figure to get fit and sound (7)
15 A musical piece is thus written (3)
16 Served up again (3)
18 Superior fuels can be handy (6)
20 Five star girl? (5)
21 Assume the party is on the first of November (3)
22 Sacramental sheep? (3)
23 The air of having singular social graces? (6)
25 Organise athletic activity (3)
28 Bury in central Battersea (5)
30 Emphatically flushed (5)
31 Piece played in quietude? (5)
32 Food for the friar (4)
33 Maintain one's grip (4)

ACROSS
4 Canny (6)
7 Next day (8)
8 Very happy (6)
10 Girl's Name (5)
13 Calf meat (4)
14 Small barrels (4)
15 Animals kept at home (4)
16 Large (3)
17 Chimney deposit (4)
19 Music type (4)
21 Bloodthirsty (9)
23 Far down (4)
24 Repose (4)
26 Karate expert (3)
27 Leader (4)
29 Cupid (4)
32 Mend with stitches (4)
33 Student's mark (5)
34 Japanese garment (6)
35 An explosive (8)
36 Fee (6)

DOWN
1 Cut of beef (5)
2 Amid (5)
3 Elm, for example (4)
4 Sugary (5)
5 Genuine (4)
6 Snout beetle (6)
9 Lariats (6)
11 Born as (3)
12 Edition (5)
13 Old soldier (7)
15 Seedcase (3)
16 Large road vehicle (3)
18 Child without parents (6)
20 External (5)
21 Blokes (3)
22 Colour (3)
23 Of Denmark (6)
25 Carry bricks in this (3)
28 Wear away (5)
30 Wireless (5)
31 Cut off (5)
32 Entrance (4)
33 Snatch (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12380

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Banger 7, Ungainly 8, Sign 10, Credit 11, Accede 14, Een 16, O-Rd.-er 17, Yard 19, Ready 21, Belle 22, H-edge 23, Rink 26, So-led 28, Sec 29, T-went-y 30, Moder-n 31, Used 32, Cramming 33, So-MB-re.
DOWN: 1, B-Is.-c-ay 2, Guided 3, Run-t 4, Bar cod-e 5, Unf-Ed 6, Tyler 8, See-R 9, GI-N 12, Cr-y 13, Demo-n 15, Helga 18, All-ow 19, Red 20, Ale 21, Bedtime 22, Hen 23, Redeem 24, Iced 25, Kind-le 26, Stick 27, Legal 28, SOS 30, Mugs.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Tumble 7, Strolled 8, Pomp 10, Leeway 11, Dilute 14, Nut 16, Cider 17, Rasp 19, Salad 21, Metal 22, Fetid 23, Cash 26, Madam 28, Rob 29, Adores 30, Tumult 31, Omit 32, Cemetery 33, Sister.
DOWN: 1, Teller 2, Blow up 3, Espy 4, Topical 5, Cloud 6, Idler 8, Pens 9, Mat 12, Lid 13, Tears 15, Ratio 18, Ahead 19, Set 20, Lad 21, Memento 22, Far 23, Comics 24, Abut 25, Hot air 26, March 27, Dogma 28, Rum 30, Toys.

◆SU-DO-KU-6863◆

	5		9			1		
		3			1			
1	7				6			5
				4	7	9	1	
4	1						5	7
	3	7	1	6				
3			2				8	1
			6			4		
		9			8		3	

hard

SOLUTION TO 6862

2	1	7	8	9	6	4	3	5
3	8	4	5	2	7	9	1	6
5	6	9	4	3	1	7	2	8
8	2	3	9	1	5	6	7	4
4	7	5	6	8	3	2	9	1
6	9	1	7	4	2	5	8	3
1	5	6	2	7	8	3	4	9
7	4	8	3	5	9	1	6	2
9	3	2	1	6	4	8	5	7

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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A1 E1 E1 M3 A1 G2 T1	4th Letter Double	RACK 1
T1 N1 I1 A1 D2 S1 E1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
N1 T1 T1 D2 E1 I1 S1		RACK 3
E1 D2 E1 F4 N1 N1 A1	Double Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 140-150
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

L1 A1 V4 E1 R1 S1	RACK 1 =	13
O1 M3 I1 T1 T1 E1 D2	RACK 2 =	60
B3 L1 A1 T1 H4 E1 R1	RACK 3 =	86
C3 O1 L1 I1 T1 I1 S1	RACK 4 =	77
V4 I1 O1 L1 E1 N1 T1	RACK 5 =	60
PAR SCORE 195-205	JUDD'S TOTAL	296

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DBYUD

SPEHE

HASWOD

NBTEON

That was great! We'll try again.
I had it in the air!
I want mine to fly too.
Let me get this knot out.
9/13
FLYING KITES WITH THE FAMILY HAD ITS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BEIGE DERBY ADJOIN HINDER
Answer: Prices at the auction were going up and up. This would go on until the — "BIDDER" END

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HITORI-3317

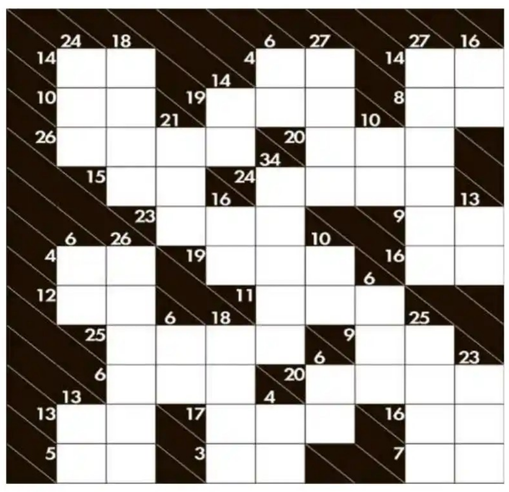
1	4	5	2	5	5	6	1
8	7	5	4	5	1	7	3
3	2	7	5	8	5	1	5
4	5	8	2	1	3	5	2
5	5	2	1	6	5	3	5
7	1	5	3	5	4	8	6
7	8	6	5	7	2	4	5
2	6	5	7	3	5	4	6

SOLUTION TO 3316

3	■	8	6	2	5	4	■
7	2	3	■	1	6	■	4
4	■	1	3	8	■	6	5
■	3	6	4	■	7	1	2
8	1	■	5	7	3	■	6
■	4	7	■	6	■	3	1
6	8	■	2	■	1	7	3
5	■	4	8	3	2	■	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3317



SOLUTION TO 3316

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3866

■	6	2			7			■
	■			8	4		■	
3		7	5	9		■		
			■		■			6
				■	5			8
6		9	8		■	4		2
8	3	■				■		9
	■						■	1
■	5							■

SOLUTION TO 3865

9	4	7	2	8	3	5	1	6
6	1	8	9	4	5	7	2	3
5	2	3	7	6	1	4	8	9
7	3	2	4	1	9	6	5	8
4	5	9	6	7	8	1	3	2
8	6	1	3	5	2	9	4	7
3	9	5	1	2	6	8	7	4
2	8	4	5	9	7	3	6	1
1	7	6	8	3	4	2	9	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

WEST ASIA CRISIS: Households told to switch from LPG to PNG within three months

No shortage of fuel, avoid panic buying: Govt

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid reports of long queues at fuel pumps and panic buying in many parts of the country, the Centre on Wednesday assured that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, or LPG in the country and urged citizens not to believe rumours circulating on social media.

All refineries are operating at high capacity with adequate crude inventories. Sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel are being maintained, and retail outlets are functioning normally across the country, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, told reporters here.

She said panic buying had been reported in some areas due to rumours, leading to unusually high sales and crowding at petrol pumps.

Separately, the three oil marketing companies — Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) — also issued statements on social media confirming there was no shortage and assured uninterrupted fuel supply across their networks.

They advised customers not to be misled by rumours or indulge in panic buying and urged them to continue with normal consumption patterns.

On the LPG front, Sharma acknowledged that supply continues to be affected due to the prevailing geopolitical situation. However, she clarified that no dry-outs have been reported, and cylinder deliveries are continuing as normal.

The government has made additional allocations to states, gradually increasing commercial LPG supply to 50% in a phased manner, with priority given to restaurants, hotels, and community kitchens.

To ease pressure on LPG, the government is accelerating the shift to piped natural gas (PNG). Domestic PNG and CNG for transport have been given 100 per cent supply priority, while industrial and commercial users are receiving around 80 per cent of their usual allocation.

Sharma said that in the last 25 days, 2.5 lakh new PNG connections have been issued, and 2.20 lakh LPG consumers have already shifted to PNG. States have been directed to take strict action against hoarding and black marketing. So far, over 2,700 raids have been conducted, around 2,000 cylinders seized, more than 650 FIRs registered, and 155 arrests made, she said.

Meanwhile, the central government has mandated that households with access to PNG must switch from LPG cylinders within three months of notification or face LPG supply disconnection.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Tuesday notified the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution (Through Laying, Building, Operation and Expansion of Pipelines and Other Facilities) Order, 2026.

It aims to accelerate pipeline infrastructure development, ease approvals, and promote a shift from LPG to PNG to strengthen energy security.

The order states that LPG supply "shall cease after three months" if a household does not opt for PNG despite its availability.

Commuters on their two-wheelers wait in a queue outside a gas station following the rumours of fuel shortage in the wake of the West Asian conflict, in Karad, Maharashtra. PTI

Restaurants warned against 'LPG charges'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: In a stern warning to hotels and restaurants, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) on Wednesday said levying additional charges such as 'LPG charges' or 'fuel cost recovery' amounts to an unfair trade practice, and strict action will be taken against violators.

Noting that several complaints had been received against hotels and restaurants for adding such charges, the CCPA clarified that this practice violates the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

It emphasised that only applicable taxes can be added to the price mentioned on the menu.

The authority has issued a fresh advisory under Section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, directing restaurants not to levy any such charges automatically. It warned that violations may invite strict penal action.

"No hotel or restaurant shall levy 'LPG charges', 'gas charges', or any similar charges by default or automatically in the bill," the CCPA stated, adding that the price displayed on the menu should be the final price, exclusive of applicable taxes.

The CCPA further said, "Consumers shall not be misled or compelled to pay any additional charge that is not voluntary in nature."

The authority clarified that input costs such as fuel, LPG, electricity, and other operational expenses are part of the overall cost of running a business and must be factored into the pricing of menu items.

Recovering such costs through separate mandatory charges constitutes an unfair trade practice under Section 2(47) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The CCPA added that any such charges, irrespective of the nomenclature used, are in the nature of service charges or additional fees.

Levying them by default would amount to a violation of the CCPA guidelines issued on July 4, 2022, and may attract appropriate action under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, the statement said.

Panic grips Hyderabad

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Chaos descended on Hyderabad's roads from Wednesday night as residents rushed to petrol pumps in a wave of panic-buying, fearing fuel shortages triggered by the escalating West Asia crisis.

Long queues of cars, two-wheelers, and auto-rickshaws snaked through the streets, spilling onto roads and stretching police resources thin, even as the government and fuel-dealers repeatedly assured the public that supplies remained unaffected.

Sources among petrol-dealers pointed out that oil-marketing companies (OMCs) had begun demanding advance payment for tankers, abandoning the credit-based system that they had long relied upon.

Several dealers, unable to make payments on time, faced supply delays and were forced to display "no stock" signs, which only deepened public anxiety.

Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Ravindra, categorically stated that stocks were more than adequate for the next three months, and that supply was currently running well ahead of demand.

On the day of the briefing, the companies supplied 17,898 kilolitres (KL) against a demand of 17,246 KL, leaving an excess of nearly 652 KL.

He pointed out that while daily demand had suddenly spiked by 25% due to panic-buying, supplies had been maintained at 22% above the average. Any temporary "no stock" boards at a few outlets were only because tankers had not yet arrived, he clarified.

Security lens on J&K's Iran donation

SRINAGAR, DHNS: Massive donation drives have sprung up across Jammu and Kashmir and Kargil in Ladakh for conflict-hit Iran, with reports suggesting contributions running into hundreds of crores, even as security agencies have flagged concerns over transparency and the possibility of diversion of funds.

Dozens of collection centres — many set up outside mosques, imambaras, and in local markets — have emerged across the Valley and Kargil over the past few days.

Volunteers, often operating in groups, are collecting donations through public appeals, announcements, and door-to-door campaigns.

The scale and diversity of contributions have been unprecedented. Apart from cash, people have donated gold jewellery, silver ornaments, copper utensils, livestock, and even vehicles — cars and motorcycles.

However, officials said the largely decentralised and informal nature of the drives raised red flags within the security establishment.

Cong faces eviction from Akbar Road office

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The government has issued notices to the Indian National Congress to vacate the 24, Akbar Road office — the iconic address of the party for the past 48 years — and the 5, Raisina Road premises where the Indian Youth Congress functions, by March 28, sources said.

Sources said the notices were served in mid-March and the party now faces eviction, as it is the final notice sent by the Estate Department under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. The party has been told by the department that its new headquarters already functions from Indira Bhavan on Kotla Road and that it is not entitled to hold on to the premises.

The Congress is formulating its strategy to counter the notices and is contemplating moving court, with leaders saying that the party and its workers have an emotional connection with the 24, Akbar Road office, which became its hub in 1978 after its loss in the Lok Sabha elections following the Emergency in India.

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram said the government should apply its rule uniformly to all and not single out the party, while Shehzad Poonawalla, spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party, said the Congress should shed the "sense of entitlement and unnecessary victimhood card", recalling the policy made under the United Progressive Alliance government that parties would shift their offices from Lutyens' Delhi to DDU Marg or to Rouse Avenue.

Cabinet clears Rs 28,840 cr for 120 new air destinations

NEW DELHI, DHNS: To connect 120 new destinations by air and benefit 4 crore passengers, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday cleared the Rs 28,840-crore "Regional Air Connectivity Scheme — Modified UDAN" for a period of 10 years, during which 100 new airports and 200 helipads are proposed to be built.

UDAN — "Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik" — was launched in October 2016 to enhance regional air connectivity and make air travel more affordable. So far, 663 routes have been operationalised across 95 airports, heliports, and water aerodromes, and carried 1.62 crore passengers on 3.41 lakh flights.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwani Vaishnaw told reporters that the scheme would be operational between 2026-27 and 2035-36, and have budgetary support from the Central government for the modified scheme.

It would enhance regional air connectivity to underserved and unserved areas, and boost economic growth, trade, and tourism in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, said Vaishnaw after the Cabinet meeting.

He said the scheme would also promote the indigenous aerospace sector under "Atmanirbhar Bharat", and improve emergency response and healthcare access in remote and hilly regions.

Under the Modified UDAN Scheme, the proposal is to develop 100 airports from existing unserved airstrips to enhance regional connectivity over the next eight years for Rs 12,159 crore.

Cabinet approves new climate action plans

India eyes 47% cut in GDP emission intensity by 2035

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

FRESH TARGETS

- New action plans to be achieved between 2031 and 2035
- Carbon sink to double via expanded forest and tree cover
- 60% of installed power capacity to come from non-fossil sources

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the next set of climate action plans, which include a 47% reduction in the emission intensity of GDP by 2035 and a doubling of the carbon sink by expanding tree and forest cover.

The new NDC (nationally determined contribution) under the Paris agreement also has a target to achieve 60% of cumulative installed electric capacity from non-fossil sources. The new action plans are to be achieved between 2031 and 2035. While three of the eight NDCs have specific targets, the remaining five do not have deadlines. They include a climate-friendly and cleaner path of economic development, resilient infrastructure, lifestyle for the environment, low-cost finance, and capacity building and R&D.

At a media briefing on the Cabinet decision, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said sources of such low-cost finance could range from ODA (overseas development assistance) and multilateral funds to pension funds that look for investment opportunities.

The NDCs are commitments by individual countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions so as to keep the global temperature rise within the guardrail of 1.5 degrees Celsius as per the Paris deal.

At the last UN climate summit (COP30) in Brazil, the countries agreed to submit their NDCs by 2025 with targets to be achieved by 2035.

India's original climate commitments — the NDCs of 2015 — set targets of a 33-35% reduction in the emissions intensity of GDP and a 40% share of non-fossil fuel-based installed power capacity by 2030. Both targets have already been met, 11 years and 9 years ahead of schedule, respectively.

Between 2005 and 2020, the emission intensity was reduced by 36%, whereas more than 52% of installed electric capacity came from non-fossil sources as on February 2026, officials said.

Further, on the NDC goal of creating additional carbon sink through forest cover, India has already created 2.29 bn tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2021, and the target now is to create a sink to absorb 3.5 to 4 bn tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Parliament passes bill to amend law on protection, rights of transgender persons

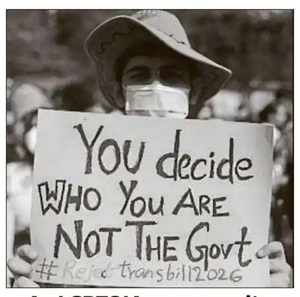
NEW DELHI, PTI: Parliament on Wednesday passed a bill to amend a law on protection and rights of transgender persons that proposes excluding social orientations from the ambit of the statute, with the Rajya Sabha giving its nod, even as opposition members pressed for sending it to a select committee.

The bill, which seeks to amend Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act 2019, also provides for graded punishment based on the gravity of harm inflicted on such people. The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Replying to the debate on the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar said the proposed legislation is an effort to take along all segments of society together.

He said the bill aims to provide protection to only those who face discrimination due to biological issues. The minister asserted that the amendment will ensure that transgender persons continue to get legal recognition and protection.

The Modi government is committed to protecting all those people who are suffering due to biological reasons, he said, adding that their rights will be protected. The minister opined that such persons should be brought into the mainstream so that they should not live in dejection.



An LGBTQIA+ community member holds a sign during a protest demanding the withdrawal of the Transgender Amendment Bill 2026, in Mumbai. REUTERS

Highlighting the steps taken by the government for the welfare of the community, the minister said that transgender welfare boards have been set up in over 30 states. This bill will bring administrative clarity and protect the rights of transgender persons.

The bill was passed by a voice vote in the Rajya Sabha after rejecting amendments moved by the Opposition. The House did not approve the demands by Opposition for sending the bill to select committee.

Several members participated in the debate including Amar Pal Maurya (BJP), Renuka Chowdhury (Congress), Fauziya Khan (NCP-SP), Manoj Kumar Jha (RJD), Saket Gokhale (TMC) and Tiruchi Siva (DMK).

Over 3 crore fake IRCTC accounts removed, says Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Insisting that the Government is taking tough action against touts from selling train tickets, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said more than three crore fake accounts from the IRCTC portal have been removed so that genuine passengers get train tickets.

Asserting that government's focus is to ensure comfortable and affordable services to people, the minister also said that over 75,000 special trains have been operated so far in 2026.

Mahadev app: ED attaches assets worth Rs 1,700 crore

NEWDELHI, PTI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said it attached fresh immovable assets worth about Rs 1,700 crore, majorly located in Dubai. including in the iconic Burj Khalifa, belonging to one of the main promoters of the Mahadev App, Sourabh Chandrakar, as part of its money laundering investigation.

The federal probe agency has said that the case involves various high-ranking politicians and bureaucrats from Chhattisgarh. A provisional order was issued by the Raipur zonal office of the federal agency under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on Wednesday.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarhalli Division Zone-2
MEI Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bagalagunte, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru - 560073

No. BNCC/EE/DD/TEND/09/2025-26 Date: 26.03.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Short Term Tender)
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) TWO COVER SYSTEM

1. The Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli division invites tenders on behalf of the commissioner, BNCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below. The Tenderers may submit tenders for works given in the table through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. **2.** Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka from **27.03.2026**. **3.** Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **16.00 hours on 16.04.2026. 4.** Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works/Amount Put to Tender Rs. in Lakhs/ EMD in Rs/Period of Completion .
	OTHERS
1	Improvements to roads, drains and Culverts in Mallasandra village, Ravindra Nagara, Kalyananagara, Prashantha and surrounding area in **ward no 16**-Mallasandra. Call-3. Amount Put to tender Rs. in Lakhs : **84.74,** EMD in Rupees : **Rs 1,70,000/-. Period of Completion : 120 days**
2	Improvements to roads and drain in Vishveshwariah layout and surrounding area in **ward no 17**-Chikkasandra. Call-3. Amount Put to tender Rs. in Lakhs : **42.37,** EMD in Rupees : **Rs 84,800/-. Period of Completion : 90 days.**
3	Improvements to roads and drain in Chikksandra and surrounding area in **ward no 17**-Chikkasandra. Call-3. Amount Put to tender Rs. in Lakhs : **42.37,** EMD in Rupees : **Rs 84,800/-. Period of Completion : 90 days.**
4	Improvements to roads and drain in Manjunathnagar and surrounding area in **ward no 18**-bagalagunte. Call-3. Amount Put to tender Rs. in Lakhs : **42.37,** EMD in Rupees : **Rs 84,800/-. Period of Completion : 90 days.**
5	Improvements to roads and drain in Bagalagunte and surrounding area in **ward no 18**-bagalagunte. Call-3. Amount Put to tender Rs. in Lakhs : **42.37,** EMD in Rupees : **Rs 84,800/-. Period of Completion : 90 days.**
6	Improvements to roads and drain in Coconut Garden and surrounding area in **ward no 19**-T Dasarahalli. Call-3. Amount Put to tender Rs. in Lakhs : **42.37,** EMD in Rupees : **Rs 84,800/-. Period of Completion : 90 days.**
7	Improvements to roads, drains and Culverts in Nisarga Layout surrounding area in **ward no 15** kammagondanahalli. Call-2. Amount Put to tender Rs. in Lakhs : **84.74,** EMD in Rupees : **Rs 1,70,000/-. Period of Completion : 120 days**

1. Technical Bids will be opened on : **17.04.2026 @ 16.00 hours**
2. Financial Bids will be opened on : **18.04.2026 @ 16.00 hours. (If Possible)**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BNCC

KRANTIVEERA SANGOLLI RAYANNA KSHETRA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
No. 337, 3rd Floor, Suvarna Soudha, Belagavi-590020
E-mail: kranthiveerarayanna@gmail.com

No. 01/KVSRKDA/Tender-01/2025-26 Date: 25.03.2026

e-Tender Notification

The Commissioner, Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Kshetra Development Authority (KSRKDA), Belagavi invited "Two cover system" as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Act 1999 and the Rules 2000 through e-Tender of Governement of Karnataka website (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for providing following services.

Tender No: KVSRK/2025-26/SE0005.

Particulars: Providing Operation and Maintenance Services for Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Veerabhoomi Museum at Nandagad Village, Khanapur Taluk, Belagavi District, Karnataka.

Last date for submission of tender: 08.04.2026.

Sd/- Commissioner
Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna
Kshetra Development Authority

DIPR/CP/6444/AKAR/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.
Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 &Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019
DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527
CAO:8147796526PA : 8147796539.
e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website : https://bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.inprincipalbmcrcballari@gmail.com

NO. BMCRC/SUP/TEND/SC-ST Books/13/2025-26/583A
Date:23.03.2026

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for Supply of Medical Books Under SCP/TSP Scheme to BMCRC, Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inof Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit Tender in above said e-portal on or before 06.04.2026up to 5.00 PM.The total approximate cost of tender is Rs.4.20Cr. Further details may be obtained in the above said website and https://bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Dean & Director,
BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/1180/KSMCA/2025-26

Gujarat law: 'Specified areas' replace 'disturbed areas'

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Gujarat Assembly on Wednesday passed a bill proposing several amendments to the Gujarat Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in the Disturbed Areas Act, 1991. Among the changes is replacing "disturbed areas" with "specified areas".

The government said that the main objective behind the amendments is "to prevent involuntary transfer of properties in specified areas and to protect the interests of legitimate owners".

Originally, the Act was introduced to prevent panic sales of immovable property following communal riots, which had led to the segregation of communities.

The Act prohibits land transactions between Hindus and Muslims, or even among Hindus, without prior permission from the district collector, provided the property falls within areas covered under the Act.

Under the amended provisions, district collectors have been empowered to investigate "suo motu" or act on applications filed by any aggrieved person. If the transfer of property is found objectionable, the collector can take temporary possession of that property, the bill states.

A new provision allows residents of specified areas to obtain loans by mortgaging their property, an option that was not available earlier.

The scope of who qualifies as an "aggrieved person" has also been expanded. As per the amendment, "any person living in the specified area" or even a "third party" may raise objections, in addition to the parties involved in the property transaction.

Meta ordered to pay $375 m in trial over child exploitation

Company says it will appeal the decision

REUTERS

A New Mexico jury on Tuesday found Meta Platforms violated state law in a lawsuit brought by the state attorney general, who accused the company of misleading users about the safety of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp and of enabling child sexual exploitation on those platforms.

After deliberating less than a day, the jury found that Meta violated New Mexico's consumer protection law and ordered the company to pay $375 million in civil penalties.

The verdict marks the first time a jury has ruled on such claims against Meta, as the company faces a wave of lawsuits over how its platforms affect young people's mental health. "We respectfully disagree with the verdict and will appeal," a Meta spokesperson said in a statement. "We work hard to keep people safe on our platforms and are clear about the challenges of identifying and removing bad actors or harmful content."

In a statement, New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez, a Democrat, called the verdict "a historic victory for every child and family who has paid the price for Meta's choice to put profits over kids' safety."

YouTube, Meta 'guilty'

A Los Angeles jury on Wednesday found Meta and YouTube liable for harming a young woman through the addictive design of their social media platforms, ordering the companies to pay $3 million in damages and opening the door to potentially far larger punitive awards, AFP reports from Los Angeles. The jury answered yes to all seven questions on verdict forms for both companies, finding that Meta and YouTube were negligent in the design and operation of their platforms and that their negligence was a substantial factor in causing harm to the plaintiff.

Iran fires missiles at US carrier as conflict spreads across West Asia

Backchannel diplomacy continues despite conflicting signals on talks

TEHRAN, AFP

Iran said on Wednesday it fired a volley of cruise missiles at a US aircraft carrier, as strikes rained down across West Asia despite backchannel diplomatic efforts to end the nearly four-week war.

A conflict that began on February 28 with a US-Israeli bombing campaign on Iran has rapidly engulfed the entire region, sending oil prices skyrocketing and threatening to derail the global economy.

Diplomats said they were working behind the scenes to ferry messages between the warring parties, despite contradictory public statements about whether talks were actually taking place.

But there was no let-up in the military activity, with targets in Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia all coming under fire.

Iran's military said its cruise missiles fired at the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier group had "forced it to change its position", warning of "powerful strikes" when the "hostile fleet" comes into range.

On the other side, Israel said it had struck targets in Tehran as well as a submarine development facility in the central city of Isfahan.

On another front, Israeli warplanes pounded the southern suburbs of Beirut, a stronghold of the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah.

An AFP correspondent saw a street covered in debris, including shattered cement and warped metal after the early morning strike, while an apartment building's upper floors appeared damaged.

Lebanon was pulled into the war when Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel on March 2 to avenge the killing of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

According to Lebanese authorities, more than 1,000 people have been killed in over three weeks of Israeli strikes and upwards of one million people displaced. In the southern Lebanese city of Tyre, almost cut off from the rest of the country by bombs, Khalil, a man in his 30s, voiced his defiance.

"They'll have to take us by force," he told AFP.

Despite Israeli ground operations and the spectre of a full-blown invasion, "we don't want to leave our land... our heart is here," said Khalil, sheltering with his young family in a theatre.

US Navy's Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln is one of the aircraft carriers currently deployed in the Arabian Sea. AFP FILE

TALKING POINTS

- Iran's parliament speaker, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, said on Wednesday that intelligence suggests "enemies" are planning to occupy an Iranian island with support from a regional country which he did not name.
- White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt says the United States would hit Iran harder if Tehran fails to accept that they have been "defeated militarily".

Trump to visit China

US President Donald Trump will travel to Beijing on May 14 and 15 for a rescheduled summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping, after the visit was postponed due to the ongoing war against Iran, AP/PTI reports from Washington. The China trip had been planned for months but began to unravel as Trump pressured Beijing and other world powers to protect the Strait of Hormuz.

Russia pulls more staff from Iran nuclear plant

MOSCOW, AFP: Russia has evacuated more staff from Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant after a reported strike on the compound on Tuesday night, the head of Russia's atomic energy agency said Wednesday.

Russia partially constructed the plant and its technicians help operate it.

A projectile landed within the plant's compound late Tuesday but caused no damage, Iran's atomic energy organisation said, accusing the US and Israel of attacking the plant. "Today, at approximately 7:20 Moscow time (0420 GMT), 163 people left Bushehr for the Iranian-Armenian border," Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev was quoted as saying by the state RIA news agency.

"Right now, about 300 remain... Some people will stay. I think it will be a few dozen people who will oversee the equipment," he added in comments to reporters.

Pakistan pushes to mediate talks

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday briefed Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman about Islamabad's diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the West Asia conflict.

Sharif, in a statement on X, reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation of the recent attacks on the Kingdom and reaffirmed Islamabad's unwavering solidarity and unequivocal support for Saudi Arabia in these challenging times.

Brittin named new BBC boss

LONDON, REUTERS: The BBC named former Google executive Matt Brittin as its new director general on Wednesday, replacing Tim Davie, who quit last year after a misleading edit of a speech by US President Donald Trump.

BBC Chair Samir Shah said it was "clear there is need for radical reform" at the publicly funded broadcaster, and that he and the board believed Brittin to be the right person to steer the change.

"The stakes for the BBC, and the future of public service broadcasting, have never been higher," he added.

Aside from a $10 billion lawsuit from Trump, the BBC is facing a battle to stay relevant as viewers, particularly younger audiences, shift to streamers and other digital platforms.

Iranian military spokesperson mocks Trump

DUBAI, AP/PTI

An Iranian military spokesperson mocked US efforts to reach a ceasefire deal on Wednesday, raising questions about whether a 15-point plan proposed by Washington has a chance of succeeding.

The comments from Lt. Col Ebrahim Zolfaghari, a spokesperson for the Iranian military's Khatam Al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, which jointly commands Iran's regular military and the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, came after the plan was submitted to Iran by intermediaries.

US President Donald Trump has said that American officials are negotiating with Iran on the plan, but Zolfaghari, in a recorded video statement aired on state television, suggested there were no talks.

"Have your internal conflicts reached the point where you are negotiating with yourselves?" he said. "Our first and last word has been the same from day one, and it will stay that way: Someone like us will never come to terms with someone like you," Zolfaghari said. "Not now, not ever."

The 15-point plan was submitted to Iran by intermediaries from Pakistan, who have offered to host renewed negotiations between Washington and Tehran, according to a person who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly.

Lebanon orders Iranian ambassador to leave country

BEIRUT, AP/PTI: Lebanon's Foreign Ministry declared Iran's ambassador to Beirut persona non grata on Tuesday, ordering him to leave the country by the end of the week.

The decision was the clearest sign yet of deteriorating relations between the two countries and raises tensions within Lebanon over the role of Tehran and its Lebanon-based ally, the militant Hezbollah group.

The move is the latest step taken by Lebanon's government against Iran after the most recent Israel-Hezbollah war broke out on March 2, during which Israel's military killed several members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard.

Hezbollah triggered the latest war by firing rockets into Israel two days after Israel and the US began their attacks on Iran.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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No. 1401] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026/PHALGUNA 29, 1947

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 19th March, 2026

S.O. 1466(E).— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/ two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of **NH73 in the stretch of land from Km. 19.840 to Km. 20.150 (Mangalore - Tumkur Section) in the district of DAKSHINA KANNADA in the state of KARNATAKA**, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, **The Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority, National Highway - 73 & 275, First Floor, Vithal Arcade Building, Near Kottara Chowki, Derebail Village, Ashokanagar Post Office, Mangalore - 575006** in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section(2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land **from Km. 19.840 to Km. 20.150 (Mangalore - Tumkur Section) of NH -73 in the district of DAKSHINA KANNADA in the state of KARNATAKA.**

STATE: KARNATAKA			DISTRICT: DAKSHINA KANNADA		
Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit) (in Sq.Mtr.)	Area (in Hectare)
1	2	3	4	5	6
TALUK: BANTWALA					
VILLAGE: BANTWALA MOODA					
1	93/2A	Government	Wet	144.38	0.014438
2	93/3A2	Government	Kharab	89.187	0.0089187
3	93/3B1B	Government	Wet	155.836	0.0155836
4	93/6A1	Government	Kharab	198.065	0.0198065
5	93/6B	Government	Kharab	419.764	0.0419764
				Total	**0.1007232**

[F.No. RW/NH-73/Km19.84-20.150/3(a) 2024-25/3A]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

Zubeen died due to accidental drowning, says coroner

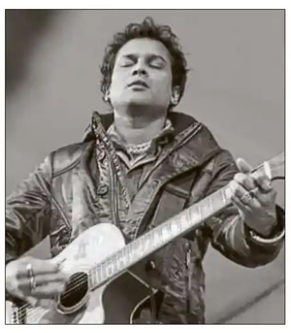
SINGAPORE, PTI

A state coroner on Wednesday upheld the Singapore Police Coast Guard's (PCG) finding that there was no foul play in the death of Indian singer Zubeen Garg and ruled the death an accidental drowning near an island of the city-state in September last year.

Directly addressing a concern raised by Garg's widow regarding the PCG's finding that there was no foul play, State Coroner Adam Nakhoda said the PCG had conducted a comprehensive and thorough investigation in the case.

Instead, Nakhoda found that Garg's death was "simply due to an unfortunate and tragic accidental drowning" and that no one had forced, coerced or pushed him into the water.

There was also no evidence that the swimmers rescuing him had deliberately held his face underwater, Channel News Asia reported, citing Nakhoda.



Singer Zubeen Garg. PTI FILE

Garg, 52, had been intoxicated, and this likely impaired his judgment and decision-making, Nakhoda said.

This included the removal of his life jacket during his first swim and his "steadfast" refusal to wear it on his second swim despite being told to don the equipment by the yacht captain and other passengers.

Garg drowned in the waters off Lazarus Island on September 19, 2025, a day before he was slated to perform at the North East India Festival.

The singer was in Singapore for a festival organised to mark 60 years of diplomatic relations between Singapore and India. The festival was cancelled on learning of the singer's death. Garg was invited to perform at the festival as one of the most popular singers in the state of Assam and likely in North East India, the court heard.

The coroner found that Garg had agreed to the yacht trip and that there was no evidence that he was coerced into it. A group of about 20 dropped anchor on a yacht they were on between Lazarus Island and St John's Island and took part in activities such as drinking alcohol, swimming and kayaking.

US appeals court backs Trump admin's detention policy

REUTERS: A US appeals court on Wednesday endorsed the Trump administration's policy of subjecting people arrested in its immigration crackdown to mandatory detention without the chance to be released on bond, in a ruling that will affect numerous cases in Minnesota and six other states.

The 2-1 decision by a panel of the St Louis-based 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals marked the second time a regional appeals court has upheld President Donald Trump's mass detention policy after hundreds of lower-court judges declared it unlawful.

The 8th Circuit's decision will affect seven states within its jurisdiction, including Minnesota. Over 400 lawsuits were filed in Minnesota in January alone by people alleging they were wrongly detained during "Operation Metro Surge", the US Department of Justice has said.

The Justice Department cited the flood of lawsuits in pushing the 8th Circuit to quickly review the case, which progressed even as the administration wound down the enforcement campaign following the fatal shootings of two US citizens in Minneapolis by immigration agents. "MASSIVE COURT VICTORY against activist judges and for President Trump's law and order agenda!" US Attorney General Pam Bondi declared in a social media post.

Bucking a long-standing interpretation of immigration law, the US Department of Homeland Security last year took the position that non-citizens already residing in the US, and not just people arriving at the border, qualify as "applicants for admission" subject to mandatory detention.

China protests after Japanese soldier enters embassy in Tokyo

BEIJING/TOKYO, PTI: China has protested to Japan and called for a thorough probe and punishment of a member of the Japanese Self-Defence Force who entered the Chinese embassy in Tokyo, allegedly carrying a knife, deepening the rift between the two countries.

A 23-year-old second lieutenant in Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force (GSDF) was arrested on Tuesday on suspicion of unlawfully entering the Chinese embassy in Tokyo, Japanese police said. Kodai Murata, a member of the GSDF's Camp Ebino in Miyazaki Prefecture, was initially detained by embassy staff. He is believed to have been carrying a knife found near the scene, but no one was injured.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally looks on during her installation ceremony at the Canterbury Cathedral in England on Wednesday. AFP

World Food Prize awarded to food safety scientist Huub Lelieveld

▸ A scientist who pioneered the modern food processing safety standards used around the world was awarded this year's World Food Prize, the organisation announced Wednesday, crediting his work with averting millions of cases of foodborne illness and reducing food waste, AP/PTI reports from Des Moines (US).

Huub Lelieveld of the Netherlands earned the award after six decades spent advancing ways to improve food safety and advocating for trade regulations that allow safe food to move around the world more easily. "I just did what I thought was right," Lelieveld said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I want everybody to have enough food but ... it should also be safe." Lelieveld began his career as a food researcher at Unilever at a time when mechanisms for manufacturing safe food products were, to him, "illogical," he said. Food was often sterilised or chemically preserved after production, and equipment needed to be shut off once or twice each day to be cleaned, which was both difficult and time-consuming. The processed food also required heavy use of preservatives, salt, sugar and acids to reduce the risk of contamination, which detracted from flavour and nutrition.

Russia downs almost 400 drones

▸ Russian air defences downed 389 Ukrainian drones, Russia's Defence Ministry said on Wednesday, in what it described as the largest reported overnight attack on Russian regions and Crimea since Moscow's forces invaded Ukraine more than four years ago, AP/PTI reports from Moscow.

The drones were intercepted over 13 Russian regions as well as the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014. The attack underlined the growing capability of Ukraine's domestically developed and manufactured long-range drones. It came a day after Russia fired almost 1,000 drones and 34 missiles at civilian areas of Ukraine within 24 hours, extending its usual nighttime barrage into daylight in one of the biggest aerial attacks of the war.

S&P Global raises India's FY27 GDP growth projection to 7.1%

Says global growth to mostly hold up even in face of war

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

S&P Global on Wednesday raised India's FY27 growth forecast by 40 basis points to 7.1%, citing modest recovery in private investment, resilient consumption and exports.

However, the global rating agency underlined that the ongoing West Asia conflict may drag the growth.

"We project real GDP growth to moderate to 7.1% in the fiscal year ending in March 2027, compared with 7.6% in fiscal 2026. Key drivers are resilient private consumption, a modest recovery in private investment, and solid exports," S&P Global said in its latest quarterly economic outlook on Asia-Pacific.

"But downside risks prevail, primarily due to the renewed geopolitical tensions and persistent trade-related uncertainties. These risks could affect India through fluctuations in commodity prices, trade volumes, and capital flows," it said. In its previous report, S&P Global had pegged India's 2026-27 growth projection at 6.7%.

India's GDP is projected to grow by 7.6% in the current fiscal, as per the estimates released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation last month.

In the Economic Survey, the government has pegged the 2026-27 growth projection in the range of 7-7.4%.

S&P Global has also upgraded its projections on India's GDP growth for FY28 by 20 basis points to 7.2%, and FY29 by 20 basis points to 7.0%, pointing to sustained expansion over the medium term.

The ratings agency expects retail inflation in India to rise to 4.3% in FY27. While higher global crude prices may push up domestic fuel prices, the rating agency does not anticipate a full pass-through, as the government is likely to act to contain subsidy burdens.

"In India, the RBI would likely tighten policy in response to energy-price inflation, after assessing its persistence. We would expect one 25 bps rate hike in the second half," it said.

"We expect inflation to rise to 4.3% in fiscal 2027 as it normalises from low levels. Higher crude prices will likely widen the trade deficit, but a healthy surplus in services trade should help contain the current account deficit. Overall, we expect the central bank to hold rates steady and maintain a neutral stance," the rating agency said, noting that the energy shock would curb central banks' appetite to cut policy rates.

On the global economy, S&P Global noted that the growth would mostly hold up even in the face of war. "Global activity has derived support from strong AI-related investment spending on tech products, especially in the US, and accommodative fiscal and monetary policy in several major economies," it said.

It further noted that the US tariff relief is likely to be temporary. The current global US levies can be applied up to 150 days. "We expect the US government to replace them in the coming months by country and sector-specific tariffs, using statues invoking 'unfair trade practices', under section 301 of the Trade Act, and 'national security concerns'," it added.

Growth under watch

India's growth is expected to stay strong, supported by spending, exports, and improving investment

Risks
- West Asia conflict could slow growth
- Trade issues and price changes may impact the economy

Inflation
- Retai inflation may rise to around 4.3%
- RBI may consider rate hike

Worldwide trend
- Global growth is holding up
- But tariff changes and policy shifts remain uncertain

RCB deal value pegged at close to $2 billion

Enterprise value includes Rs 540 cr payout for WPL, 5% commission to BCCI

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The enterprise value of IPL cricket franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore is pegged close to $2 billion after adjusting for transaction liabilities to the BCCI and debt-like items, sources said.

As per the deal details, the buyer must pay Rs 540 crore for WPL and a 5% commission to the BCCI. This translates to Rs 833 crore plus 18% GST, taking the total deal value to over Rs 18,100 crore. The company purchased the WPL team for Rs 900 crore, payable over 10 years. Of this, it has already paid for four years and the balance amount (Rs 540 crore) is to be paid by the buyer, sources explained.

United Spirits Ltd (USL) on Tuesday announced the sale of a 100% stake in Royal Challengers Sports Private Ltd (RCSPL), for $1.78 billion (about Rs 16,660 crore) in an all-cash deal, to a consortium of Aditya Birla Group (ABG), American sports investor David Blitzer, US private equity firm Blackstone, and The Times of India Group.

RCSPL owns and operates men's and women's cricket teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and Women's Premier League (WPL) under the name Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB).

This announcement concludes the strategic review of RCSPL that USL initiated, as announced on November 5, 2025. The transaction is subject to satisfactory completion of customary closing conditions and legal, regulatory and other approvals, including from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Competition Commission of India (CCI). It is expected to conclude in the next six months, sources said.

Citigroup India and AZB Partners served as advisors and counsel to USL.

"We are proud to become custodians of RCB and grateful to USL and Diageo for the franchise they have built. RCB's championship-winning culture, its deep connection to Bengaluru, and one of the most-passionate fanbases in world sport make this an extraordinary opportunity. We are committed to taking RCB to new heights, on the pitch and beyond," the acquiring consortium said.

Bourses rally for 2nd day amid hopes of thaw in West Asia war

MUMBAI, PTI

Stock markets rallied for the second consecutive day on Wednesday, with benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closing nearly 2% higher, as crude prices dropped and global markets advanced amid hopes of de-escalation in the West Asia war.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,205 points or 1.63% to settle at 75,273.45. During the day, it soared 1,781.31 points or 2.40% to 75,849.76. The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 394.05 points or 1.72% to end at 23,306.45.

From the 30-Sensex firms, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, L&T, Titan, InterGlobe Aviation and Trent were the biggest gainers. Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, TCS and BEL were the laggards.

"Markets continued to build on the previous day's momentum as global risk sentiment improved, with hopes of peace emerging on the radar. Potential diplomatic progress between the US and Iran-despite mixed geopolitical commentary-led to easing crude oil prices below $100, which was welcomed by the market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

The BSE SmallCap Select index jumped 3.05% and MidCap Select index climbed 2.50%.

All sectoral indices ended higher. BSE MidSmall Private Banks Quality Tilt surged 3.70%, followed by commodities (2.75%), PSU Bank (2.61%), realty (2.53%), metal (2.51%), industrials (2.49%), and services (2.42%). A total of 2,959 stocks advanced, while 1,357 declined and 156 remained unchanged on the BSE.

In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended higher. Markets in Europe were trading in positive territory. The US market ended lower on Tuesday.

"The primary trigger for improved sentiment was emerging signals of a potential pause in the ongoing US–Iran conflict. Reports indicating a possible ceasefire framework and diplomatic engagement raised expectations of de-escalation, prompting a risk-on reaction across global markets," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said.

Rupee hits fresh record low against $ amid West Asia crisis

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee slumped 20 paise to close at a fresh record low of 93.96 against the US dollar on Wednesday, as heavy FII outflows and simmering tensions in West Asia kept investors on edge.

Even a drop in global crude prices, a weaker greenback, and positive sentiments in the domestic equity markets could not provide any respite to the local unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the local unit opened at 93.94 against the US dollar and traded in the range of 93.86-94.13, before settling at an all-time low of 93.96, down 20 paise from its previous close.

The rupee dropped 23 paise to close at 93.76 against the US dollar on Tuesday. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.17% lower at 99.26.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 4.33% lower at $99.97 per barrel in futures trade.

Puravankara gets enquiries from customers in West Asia

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru-based property developer Puravankara Limited is witnessing a huge surge in enquiries from Non-Resident Indians in West Asia for investment opportunities in real estate in India, ever since the Iran war broke out, a top company executive said.

Ashish Puravankara

"In the last 23 days, our sales office in West Asia has seen a 50-60% increase in daily enquiries from our customers who are looking to invest back in India due to security reasons. We are getting more than 200 calls every day from customers looking to invest in India," said Ashish Puravankara, Managing Director, Puravankara Limited.

He said the company sold 40% more than expected houses at its recently-launched property in Mumbai. The company will also take a look at increasing prices of its properties, after taking into account the price rise in various construction materials due to the war in West Asia. "The price hike is under review and we will take a call as and when necessary," he said.

Puravankara said the company can sustain a rise in the prices of crude oil up to $93 per barrel and anything above that will impact margins.

30 new projects

The company also unveiled a portfolio of 30 projects across South India and Mumbai, with a gross development value (GDV) of Rs 55,000 crore in the next 24 months. The planned pipeline comprises nearly 51.14 million sq feet of developable area. Out of 30 projects, a significant number are already in the approval stage, while the remaining are in the design stage, with approvals set to be initiated shortly, Mallanna Sasalu, CEO—South, Puravankara Limited, said.

"We are entering this phase with a clear execution roadmap that is stronger, more agile and future-ready," he said.

Puravankara said the company would be spending a capital expenditure of Rs 18,000 crore on the new projects.

Sasalu said the company is witnessing a temporary shortage of construction workers, who have returned to their hometowns with elections due in four states.

As part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations, the company is planning to plant 1 million trees by 2030. It is also organising a 10k Run on March 29, during which 10,000 trees will be planted.

Centre proposes 12% surcharge on capital gains from share buybacks

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Finance Bill 2026, incorporating 32 government-proposed amendments, including the imposition of a flat 12% surcharge on capital gains earned by individual or corporate shareholders by selling shares in the buyback offer of companies effective from April 1.

Under the current framework, surcharge on capital gains is linked to income levels of individuals, with no surcharge up to Rs 50 lakh and 10% between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 1 crore.

Moving to flat 12% surcharge would result in higher tax burden on majority of shareholders. However, for large buybacks, where gains exceed Rs 1 crore, the new framework is beneficial. At present, gains from share buybacks exceeding Rs 1 crore are subject to 15% surcharge. The flat 12% surcharge, implies a 3 percentage point reduction for such taxpayers.

With the passage of the Finance Bill 2026, the Budgetary approval process has been completed in Lok Sabha. It will now move to Rajya Sabha.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju informed that the Finance Bill 2026 will be taken up for consideration in the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

'E-commerce, tech startups lead in sectoral hiring'

BENGALURU, DHNS: E-commerce and tech startups are continuing to lead hiring momentum with a Net Employment Change (NEC) of 8.9% in HY1 2026-27, moderating from 11.3% in the previous half-year, staffing company TeamLease Services in its Employment Outlook Report (EOR) for HY1 FY2026-27 (April-September) said.

It said this reflects structured workforce alignment following a high-growth phase, while sustaining strong expansion intent across digital commerce and SaaS ecosystems.

"The outlook is underpinned by rapid market expansion towards a projected $345 billion e-commerce economy by 2030, acceleration in quick commerce, and rural digital penetration supported by BharatNet connectivity," the report stated.

TeamLease projects an NEC of 4.7%, an increase from 2.8% and 4.4% over the previous two half-years, and that this improvement is reflected in employer sentiment, with 58% planning workforce expansion, 26% expecting no change, and 16% anticipating a reduction, indicating a gradual strengthening of hiring confidence across industries.

Apart from e-commerce and tech startups, healthcare and pharmaceuticals lead at 7%, followed by manufacturing, engineering and infrastructure at 6.6%.

In the case of telecommunication, there is an upward shift in hiring intent. This is due to continued 5G rollout intensity and rising Fixed Wireless Access adoption. Hiring is also becoming more defined at a functional level. Sales and marketing lead hiring intent, with 54% of employers expanding teams, followed by IT at 40% and finance at 39%. Hiring is also concentrated in capability-driven urban centres. Bengaluru leads with 67.9% employer expansion intent, followed by Hyderabad at 57.8% and Pune at 56.1%.

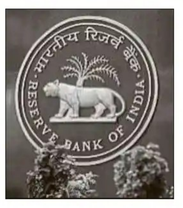
Balasubramanian A, Senior Vice-President, TeamLease Services, said, "With the implementation of labour codes, 64% of organisations are reporting an increase in employment costs and 80% redesigning salary structures. Businesses are recalibrating workforce models to align with new statutory frameworks."

Maintain retail inflation at 4% till March 2031, Centre asks Reserve Bank

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Centre on Wednesday asked the RBI to maintain retail inflation at 4%, with a margin of 2% on either side, for another five years ending March 2031.

To control the price rise, the government in 2016 gave a mandate to the RBI to keep retail inflation at 4%, with a margin of 2% on either side, for five years ending March 31, 2021. Subsequently, in March 2021, the Centre maintained the same target. This is the second time, the government has retained the inflation target.

The Centre, in consultation with the RBI, hereby notifies the inflation target for the period beginning April 1, 2026, and ending on March 31, 2031, a gazette notification issued by the Department of Economic Affairs dated March 25 said.



According to it, the inflation target is 4% with an upper tolerance level of 6% and a lower tolerance level of 2%.

According to the latest data, retail inflation in the country rose to 3.21% in February from 2.74% in the preceding month.

The RBI Governor-headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) determines the policy rate required to achieve the inflation target.

TECH THREAT

Deepfake interview fraud is now real, a big threat to recruiting companies

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

With AI voice and avatar tools now easily available, there has been a surge in deepfake interviews where job applicants use GenAI technology to manipulate their voice, appearance or even identity.

Reports estimate that 10-15% of online interviews already show signs of cheating. Recently, Bengaluru-based AI-powered interview intelligence platform InCruiter, during an interview, found that a participant was answering technical questions and engaging naturally. Though the interaction initially appeared normal, the session was flagged by InCruiter's continuous deepfake detection system, which identified subtle visual anomalies suggesting the presence of a synthetic identity overlay.

Usually, a deepfake interview candidate uses synthetic media to trick employers. He/she uses AI-assisted content and misrepresents their presence. In this case, InCruiter uncovered a deepfake impersonation attempt for a global fintech and private credit platform client.

The platform's analysis revealed that the individual on screen was not the real candidate, but an AI-generated avatar designed to replicate the candidate's appearance and voice, likely intended to bypass the automated evaluation process. It detected behavioural and visual inconsistencies throughout the session and generated a detailed proctoring report containing timestamped evidence, trust scores, and flagged indicators of manipulation.

When InCruiter launched its Deepfake Detection technology some months ago, the system flagged fraudulent activity in 25-30% of suspicious interview sessions.

Anil Agarwal, Founder and CEO of InCruiter, said AI-led interviews are rapidly becoming the future of hiring at scale. But as organisations adopt automation, they must also be prepared for increasingly sophisticated forms of fraud. Deepfake impersonation is a real and emerging risk.

HR experts warned that deepfake interview is now becoming a real threat to organisations.

Ankit Aggarwal, Founder and CEO of Unstop, said online interviews have expanded access at scale, but they have also introduced a real challenge around trust. Candidates today attempt to game the system through external assistance, parallel devices, and other methods, which create a credibility gap for recruiters and impact the quality of hiring decisions.

Based on InCruiter's observations, IT and tech companies represent the largest share of such fraud at around 60%, followed by BFSI at 15%, BPOs and KPOs at 10%, startups at 10%, and manufacturing and core sectors at 5%.

Aditya Narayan Mishra, MD and CEO of CIEL HR, said that as these fake employees get credentials, they will receive access to all confidential data of the firm. There are instances where candidates use AI-generated avatars or pre-recorded responses to misrepresent their identity, which can compromise hiring quality and organisational security.

To counter this, organisations are rethinking their interview design. Interviewers are being trained to ask contextual, situational questions that require spontaneous thinking, making it difficult for scripted or pre-recorded responses to pass through. Additionally, many companies are reintroducing at least one in-person or live, closely monitored final round to validate authenticity, Mishra said.

He added that it is also essential to strengthen background verification. It should not be treated as a checkbox exercise; verification needs to be intentional, thorough, and layered, combining identity checks, employment validation and, where necessary, digital footprint analysis.

"Organisations are actively addressing this through a more secure, tech-led approach, with platforms enabling end-to-end online assessments backed by AI proctoring that continuously tracks candidate behaviour, along with strong impersonation checks, real-time screen monitoring, and full screen enforcement to prevent any navigation outside the test environment. These measures help ensure that the person being evaluated is authentic and that the process remains uncompromised," Aggarwal said.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052. Email:dgm3bswml@gmail.com

No. BSWML/DGM-3/ PR/869/2025-26 Date: 25.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

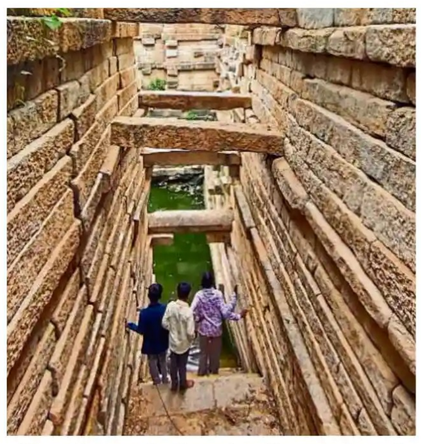
Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated amount Rs.in lakhs	EMD (in Rs.)	Stipulated Period of Service Contract
1	Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/MLP Generated in Bengaluru East City Corporation area to cement industries. Call-2.	499.50	7,49,250.00	6 Months

Calendar of events: 1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **30.03.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs.** in KPP Portal. **2.** Pre bid meeting: **30.03.2026 at 15.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM-2 (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore. **3.** Last date for submission of the bids: **02.04.2026 upto 16.30 Hrs. 4.** Date of opening of Technical bid on: **04.04.2026 at 10.30 Hrs. 5.** Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.
Terms and Conditions & More Detailscan be downloaded from website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Any Addendum/Corrigendum shall be published in the KPP Portal only.

DIPR/CP/JA/6463/2025-26 **Sd/- Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML**

The stepwell near the Siddheshwara Temple at Sirival in Yadgir district.

The stepped tank at Kavaledurga Fort in Shivamogga district.



Stone beams buttressing the revetment walls of a stepwell at Lakshmeshwar.

Stepwells: Marvels of water and sky

From shallow tanks to dizzying depths, stepwells are subterranean realms where engineering meets artistry, writes Srikumar M Menon

The shaft of the Nagakunda stepwell at Sudi in Gadag district. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

The descent is along a narrow, stone-lined stairway. The stone masonry flanking the stairway on either side is bare, with no imagery of any kind to relieve it. The only relief in the austere-looking stonework is provided by the odd recessed or projecting course. Soon, the stairway turns right from a landing, before veering left again in a long flight downwards. As one descends, the massive stone revetments soar upwards, soon reducing the sky to a narrow strip, striped by the silhouettes of the roughly hewn stone beams which soak up the pressure from the masses of earth held back by the walls. At the base of the steps lies the water, a dark shade of green with algal growth.

We are in the stepwell within the premises of the Someshwara temple at Lakshmeshwar, also known as Puligere, in Gadag district. The bare stone masonry and rough beams render it starkly beautiful, in contrast to the temple with its ornate and intricate facades. Being close to a temple, this stepwell qualifies as an *okkarane bavi*, a well which serves as a *pushkarini*, or temple tank, with its water used for temple rituals. The image of Lajja Gauri — a fertility goddess, enshrined in a nearby temple, was discovered near the stepwell. Since ancient times, water has been associated with fertility, and such images are often found in conjunction with wells and tanks.

Stepwells are excavations in the earth, their shafts sometimes piercing multiple aquifers, providing water all year around, with steps allowing access to the water level, which often fluctuates with the seasons. Sometimes, this involves cutting through bedrock, with massive stone masonry walls retaining the soil in the upper portions. Stepwells in the Indian subcontinent have an antiquity dating back a couple of millennia and are mostly found in arid regions. They can be relatively shallow, or dizzyingly deep, depending on groundwater levels, and can assume ingenious shapes.

All stepwells are not austere in appearance. The Nagakunda at Sudi in Gadag district, built a millennium ago by Nagadeva, an official of the Kalyani Chalukyas, is an incredible example of how sculpturesque a stepwell can get. This stepwell is, in the words of the architectural historian Adam Hardy, like an "inside-out temple sunk into the ground!" This is literally true: the articulation of the stepwell's inner walls faithfully follows the geometry of the outer walls of the Vesara-style temples in vogue during the Kalyani Chalukyan period, such as the nearby Jodu Kalasa temple built by the same patron. Descending to the water in this uniquely crafted stepwell is a surreal experience, with the temple-like walls closely flanking the path before opening out around the shaft of the well. This stepwell, after centuries of neglect, has recently been restored by the Deccan Heritage Foundation.

Function shapes form

Stepwells dug for irrigation are typically located in fields, away from habitation, and are generally without ornamentation, whereas those built for the benefit of travellers are usually near transportation routes, and have multiple chambers and pavilions for rest, worship and other activities. Evaporative cooling in stepwells lowers ambient air temperatures considerably in these arid lands. Multitudes of travellers would have gratefully rested and recharged in these cool oases, before proceeding on their journeys.

The *okkarane bavi* is usually ornate and embellished with sculptures, though not always, as we have seen at Puligere. Wells created to irrigate fields usually have mechanisms for lifting water to the surface, where it is directed along channels to the fields. These, we know from inscriptions, were called *kapileya bavi*.

Wells, which allow users to descend stairways to the water level, are called *nada bavi*, or *nadada bavi*, because one can walk down to the water. Tanks with steps on all four sides are known as *koneri*. In ancient times, water was considered sacred, and the waters of stepwells and tanks were often referred to as Gangamma in inscriptions.

Aihole, with its multitude of temples from Early Chalukyan period and later eras, has several stepwells, the one at Huchimalli Gudi being particularly picturesque. The Rashtrakutas, who succeeded the Early Chalukyas, also built stepwells, some of which can still be seen among the extensive cluster of temples at Sirival in Yadgir district. Though most of the wells at Sirival do not boast of any embellishment, one stepwell near the Nannayya-Nadayya group of temples is richly decorated with beautiful sculptures from the epics and the *Panchatantra*.

Beyond the drylands

Although stepwells are most commonly found in arid regions, they are not entirely absent in humid, rain-rich areas. In these regions, excavations tend to be shallower, unlike the grand, deep edifices found in the drylands. Even these stepwells can be visually charming, such as the small stepped tank at Shivamogga's Kavaledurga, the forest-fortress of the Keladi Nayakas. Sometimes, conventional wells may have steps leading down, qualifying them as *nada bavi*, like one near the Shiroor Matha, near Udupi.

Stepwells cannot be seen merely as utilitarian structures for accessing water, they are alternate worlds in the bowels of the earth, where water communes with the sky. Entering a stepwell, as the Dutch artist Jeroen van Westen says, "One leaves the world's sense of time and space behind and rediscovers the sky in the infinitely still water at the bottom."

(The author is with the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru)

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

A journey of many milestones

Nemichandra writes about Anandi Ramalingam who went on to head a defence PSU and shape public service

I was keen to interview Anandi Ramalingam in 2022, but knowing she was busy as the Chairperson and Managing Director of Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), I decided to wait. When I finally called her up after her retirement, she was already in Delhi, serving as the Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. I flew down to meet her. Sitting across from her in her office, where she held a high ranking post appointed by the President of India, I felt both proud and vindicated.

Half a century ago, as young girls aspiring to enter engineering, we were often told that engineering was not 'the field' for women. But here was a woman who had excelled in the field of technology, business administration and good governance. Now, she was the Information Commissioner.

Her success, no doubt, highlights women's potential and achievements but her journey is not merely a story of individual success. It is also about a father who encouraged his daughters to dream, a husband who celebrated his wife's achievements and a son who understood early on that a mother's career matters.

Born in 1962 in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore, Anandi was influenced by her father, T N Periaswamy, a civil engineer with the Indian Railways, who pursued his profession with great sincerity and passion. He fostered Anandi's dream of becoming an engineer.

In 1984, she graduated in Electronics and Communication Engineering from PSG College of Technology in Coimbatore and was soon recruited by BEL. When she joined BEL on March 1, 1985, Bengaluru became her home.

After initial training, she was posted as a deputy engineer in the Low Power Equipment (LPE) division, where she began working on radio transmitters and receivers. The division later diversified into Digital Communication Systems R&D.

In 1988, she married P Ramalingam, a bank officer whose frequent transfers meant that Anandi stayed back in Bengaluru to pursue her career while raising their son, born in 1989. Her mother-in-law and sisters-in-law, who were professionals themselves, ensured she was never pressured to give up her job to follow her husband.

In service of nation

Working in a defence public sector undertaking (PSU) came with its own set of challenges, including being at Armed Forces bases for weapon trials where even basic facilities like ladies toilets were sometimes lacking. Yet, as she puts it, "The satisfaction of working for the nation is an overwhelming experience; that's what keeps us going."

In mid 2000s, her contributions to projects such as 'Shakti', the Artillery Combat Command and Control System (ACCCS) brought her national recognition and soon, she was part of the team formed to set up the Marketing Division for the Military Communication and Electronic Warfare Strategic Business Unit (SBU).

She acknowledges mentors who, at a time when patriarchy was deeply entrenched, never hesitated to entrust women with greater responsibilities and opportunities.

Anandi Ramalingam. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

In 2009, she was promoted as an additional general manager and a year later, she moved to BEL's International Marketing Division, where she led Defence Offsets and contributed significantly to BEL's export growth.

Breaking barriers

Her career progression hit a brief hurdle during an interview for the post of general manager, which required relocation to Delhi. "That was my first brush with discrimination," she recalled. In that interview, she was asked who would take care of her home and children if she moved to Delhi, a question rarely posed to male candidates. At the time, her son was studying at Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. She laughs now at the absurdity of the question but acknowledges the disappointment. BEL has a robust gender equality policy. Yet an individual's bias can slip through the system. However, she did not allow such setbacks to affect her work.

In 2014, she became the general manager and moved to Delhi's National Marketing Division. In 2016, she made history as BEL's first woman whole-time director. In July 2021, she broke another barrier, becoming the first woman chairperson and managing director of BEL. In 2022, she received the Chanakya Award for Good Governance from the Public Relations Council of India.

I asked her, borrowing from Indra Nooyi, whether she "hid her crown in the garage" when she returned home. She laughed. "There is absolutely no need; my husband and son celebrate my successes," she said.

It was heartening to hear her add that today, nearly 30% of general managers and executive directors at BEL are women, a quiet but powerful testament to change.

In 2016, Anandi Ramalingam made history as Bharat Electronics Ltd's first woman whole-time director, and in July 2021, she became its first woman chairperson and managing director.

A hilltop shrine and its living traditions

From rituals with jackfruit pickle and rice to the ringing of bells, the Malethirike shrine preserves a unique culture, writes Mookonda Kushalappa

On the edge of the Western Ghats in Kodagu, atop a mountain, lies a small open-air shrine known as Malethirike. It stands near the villages of Karada and Palangala. The mountain, once called Chomamale, is now known as Somagiri, around 15 km from Kakkabe town.

The shrine is associated with bells, with hundreds adorning its premises. Devotees vow to offer bells upon the fulfillment of their prayers, which are then hung from overhead rods.

Like other traditional Kodava shrines, Malethirike has no walls or roof enclosing its place of worship. Five lingas are found at the base of large trees. A stairway in the forest leads to this location.

Devotees ring bells at the open-air shrine at Malethirike atop Somagiri near Kakkabe in Kodagu. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

Legend

According to local accounts, Tipu Sultan and his army once pursued the region's militiamen, who retreated up the mountain to secure their position. As the troops advanced halfway, they were attacked by a swarm of wild bees and forced to flee, leaving behind weapons and ammunition. This cache later aided the locals in defending themselves. A sword with a large guard, its blade broken recently, and a cannonball are preserved as testimony to this episode.

The Manual of Coorg (1870) refers to 'Maletambira' of Chomamale as an elder brother of Igguthappa, another local deity. The shrine lies within a sacred grove (*devara kadu or devara kad*), traditionally left untouched by cultivation or hunting, as in other parts of Kodagu. The same Gazetteer describes this site, along with the Igguthappa Devarakad and others, as 'reserved for the abodes or hunting grounds of deified heroic ancestors'. Such groves are often associated with Ayyappa, regarded as the patron of these ancestral hunter traditions.

Pattole Palame (1924), a compilation of Kodava folksongs, mentions the Male Thambiran deity — also known as Thumbe Male Devayya — several times. Its compiler, Nadikerianda Chinnappa, also composed a Kannada poem on this Somagiri deity.

Festival

There are a few small ponds on the peak near the temple. The temple is open from 10 am to around 2.30 pm. The temple priest performs the daily pooja and offers *payasa*, prepared from rice and jaggery. The annual festival is around March 14 every year.

Around March 1, the *deva katt* begins, during which families associated with the shrine observe restrictions. They refrain from cutting plants, harming any creature, or speaking ill of others, among other prescribed practices. During the festival, several designated families from the surrounding Kadiyatnad region carry bags of rice up the hill on oxen, whose horns and backs are adorned with colourful cloth. The rice is offered at the temple, where it is used to prepare *payasa*.

Early in the morning, the designated families bring *chakke para* (jackfruit pickle) prepared in advance and cook *kuyya kool* — rice with *nirenge* leaves — on open fires using bricks and firewood, later serving it on *kuvale* leaves.

Around the time of the pooja, some devotees enter a trance. In the afternoon, *payasa* is served as lunch to all devotees and pilgrims.

Archers claim two bronze, reach four finals

BANGKOK, PTI: Indian archers bagged two bronze medals and also stormed into the finals of the men's recurve and women's compound team events on the second day of the Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament Stage 1 here on Wednesday.

India also confirmed three medals in the individual section, but it came with the embarrassment for the recurve men, where none of the four archers could reach the medal rounds in a sharp fall from the previous edition's top-two finish by Vishnu Choudhary and Rahul.

The women's compound team improved on its bronze from the previous edition by reaching the final.

The trio of Chikitha Taniparthi, Raj Kaur and Tejal Salve edged past local favourites Kanyavee Maneesombatkul, Kanoknapus Kaewchomphu and Chaniddapa Thanaratpitinan 229-226 in a closely-fought semifinal to set up a summit clash against third-seeded Kazakhstan.

Master Multitude wins Yodha Plate

DELHI RESULTS

Master Multitude, trained by S M Abbas and ridden by jockey Angad, won the Yodha Plate over 1400M, the main event of the races held here on Wednesday.

1. The Garud Plate 1400M: Ashwa Denali (GS Shekhawat) 1, Ustaad Ji (Vivek G) 2, Dashing Harry (Ram Nandan Manjhi) 3; WB: 1-3/4, 2L; T: 1:26.76; TB: S Nawab; Fav: Ashwa Denali.
2. The Yodha Plate (Div I) 1400M: Master Multitude (Angad) 1, Divit (Jai Prakash) 2, Jeet Hero (Vishal) 3, Ashwa Changez (Vivek G) 4; WB: 2-1/4, Shd, Nk; T: 1:26.14; TB: SM Abbas; Fav: Ashwa Changez.
3. The Yodha Plate (Div II) 1400M: Ashwa Sultan (Vivek G) 1, Shahzada (MB Qureshi) 2, Chieftain (Vishal) 3, Master Stoute (Angad) 4; WB: 4-2/2, 1, 1L; T: 1:25.52; TB: S Nawad; Fav: Ashwa Sultan.
4. The Pratap Plate (Div I) 1100M: Beat Goes On (Angad) 1, Elite (Kundan Paswan) 2, Royal Baby (Ankit Pal) 3, Bison (Lave Kumar) 4; WB: 1-1/4, 3-1/4, 1/2; T: 1:07.10; TB: KP Singh; Fav: Beat Goes On.
5. Pratap Plate (Div II) 1100M: Magic Spell (Vivek G) 1, Eastern Crown (Jai Prakash) 2, Miss Boost (Angad) 3, Aegir (A Fazal) 4; WB: 2-1/2, Nk, Hd; T: 1:07.09; TB: SM Abbas; Fav: Magic Spell.
6. Trinetra Plate 1000M: Weronika (R Rakesh) 1; Super Speed (Arjun) 2, Nizbati Malang (A Fazal) 3, Pure Pride (Deepak Kumar) 4; WB: 1-3/4, 3/4, 3-1/4; T: 1:00.24; TB: SM Abbas; Fav: Nizbati Malang.

Bengaluru dividends
I race: Rs 18w, Rs 10, Rs 10p; SHP: Rs 22; THP: Rs 60.
II race: Rs 28w, Rs 14, Rs 23, Rs 13p; Fc: Rs Rs 1028; Q: Rs 284; SHP: Rs 66; THP: Rs 34; Tri: Rs 763 & Rs 436; Exp: Rs 4479 & Rs 1919.
III race: Rs 14w, Rs 11, Rs 13, Rs 16p; Fc: Rs 47; Q: Rs 20; SHP: Rs 29; THP: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 181 & Rs 86; Exp: Rs 287 & Rs 110.
IV race: Rs 26w, Rs 11, Rs 35, Rs 11p; Fc: Rs 1620; Q: Rs 980; SHP: Rs 90; THP: Rs 49; Tri: Rs 1244 & Rs 400; Exp: Rs 17360 & Rs 3720.
V race: Rs 12w, Rs 11, Rs 12, Rs 14p; Fc: Rs 97; Q: Rs 120; SHP: Rs 28; THP: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 202 & Rs 69; Exp: Rs 1352 & Rs 772.
VI race: Rs 53w, Rs 20, Rs 11, Rs 12; Fc: Rs 69; Q: 35; SHP: Rs 35; THP: Rs 37; Tri: 117 & Rs 63; Exp: Rs 643 & Rs 397.
Jackpot: Rs 5202 & Rs 416. **Treble:** Rs 235.

Argento for main event

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Argento, from the stable of Aashay Doctor and to be ridden by P Trevor, is fancied to win The Euphrates Cup, the feature event of the races on Sunday. The first race starts at 3 pm.
1. The Alamito Handicap 1100M: Moneycatcher 1, Lahina 2, Diamond Gold 3.
2. The Brave Patriach Handicap 1400M: Midnight Star 1, Fortune Warrior 2, Italian Gold 3.
3. The Euphrates Cup 1200M: Argento 1, Saiko 2, Silver Dream 3.
4. The Romantic Memories Handicap 1100M: Dona Slenna 1, Trillionaire 2, Don'tstopthemusic 3.
5. The Tug of War Handicap 1600M: Garth1, Lochs And Glens 2, Global Fashion 3.
6. The Bright Law Handicap 1400M: Fable 1, Romping Home 2. Merlet 3.
Day's Best: Midnight Star. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **I treble:** 1, 2, 3. **II treble:** 4, 5, 6.

◆ ON TV ◆

FOOTBALL

European Qualifiers (play-offs semifinal): Turkiye vs Romania **(10:30 pm)**, Italy vs Northern Ireland, Wales vs Bosnia-Herzegovina, Czechia vs Republic of Ireland **(all 1:15 am, Friday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

Friendlies: Brazil vs France **(1:30 am, Friday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

IFL: Rajasthan United FC vs Diamond Harbour FC **(4 pm)**, Gokulam Kerala FC vs Shillong Lajong FC **(6:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5, SonyLIV.**

TENNIS

Miami Open: Men's and women's quarterfinals **(10:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

FOOTBALL

Mo Salah to leave Liverpool

After an illustrious stint, Egyptian to part ways with Reds at the end of season

LONDON, AFP

Mohamed Salah will leave Premier League champions Liverpool at the end of the season, the Egypt forward announced on Tuesday as he started a farewell to what the club said were nine "illustrious" years at Anfield.

The 33-year-old arrived from Roma in 2017 and has made 435 appearances for Liverpool to date, scoring 255 goals to be third on the club's all-time goalscorers chart behind Ian Rush and Roger Hunt.

Salah has won four Premier League Golden Boots and starred for Liverpool in both their 2019/20 and 2024/25 title triumphs as well as lifting the 2019 Champions League trophy.

His Liverpool honours also include a Club World Cup, UEFA Super Cup, FA Cup and two League Cups.

Salah has scored just five Premier League goals this season, compared with 29 in last term's title-winning campaign.

His Anfield future became the subject of intense speculation after a dramatic bust-up with Liverpool manager Arne Slot in December.

Mohamed Salah had very successful stint at Liverpool since joining them in 2017 from Roma. REUTERS

SALAH: THE RED ICON

- 4: The number of Golden Boot awards won for being the top scorer in the Premier League, tied for the most with Arsenal great Thierry Henry. Salah's came in 2017-18, 2018-19, 2021-22 and 2024-25.
- 8: The number of major titles won at Liverpool: two Premier League, one Champions League, one FA Cup, two League Cups, the Club World Cup and the UEFA Super Cup.
- 50 million: The fee, in US dollars, Liverpool spent to sign Salah from Roma in 2017.
- 255: The number of goals Salah has scored at Liverpool, putting him third on its all-time list behind Ian Rush (346) and Roger Hunt (285).
- 435: The number of appearances made by Salah for Liverpool in all competitions.

He accused Liverpool of throwing him "under the bus" after he was benched for three games in a row and said he had no relationship with the Dutch boss.

Salah, in a video on social media featuring highlights of his time with Liverpool, said: "Hello everyone. Unfortunately, the day has come.

"This is the first part of my farewell. I will be leaving Liverpool at the end of the season.

"I wanted to start by saying that I never imagined how deeply this club, this city, these people would become part of my life. Liverpool is not just a football club. "It's a passion, it's a history, it's a spirit. I can't explain in words to anyone not of this club."

Salah, who in common with many Liverpool players and staff was deeply affected by the death of team-mate Diogo Jota in a car crash in July, added: "We celebrated victory, we won the most important trophies and we fought together through the hardest time in our life.

"I want to thank everyone who was part of this club throughout my time here, especially the teammates past and present.

"And to the fans, I don't have enough words. The support you showed me through the best time of my career, and you stood by me in the toughest times. It's something I will never forget and something I will take with me always.

"Leaving is never easy. You gave me the best time of my life. I will be always one of you. This club will always be my home, to me and to my family.

"Thank you for everything. Because of all of you, I will never walk alone," insisted Salah in a reference to the Liverpool fans' anthem.

Udity hits treble in Hebbal's rout of Yelahanka; Krishnarajapura triumph 3-0

BENGALURU, DHNS: Udity G hit a treble while Aswin Chakravarthy, Vishal Villa and Mohammed Ameenuddin scored a brace each as Hebbal hammered Yelahanka 10-0 in a Group C match of the second Vaishnavi Chief Minister Cup football tournament here at the BFS on Thursday.

Later in the second match, Krishnarajapura got the better of Yeshwanthpur 3-0.

Steve Mathew (28th) opened the scoring before the half-hour mark while Punith M (62nd) and Tejas (84th) put the match beyond any doubt in the second half.

Yeshwanthpur dominated proceedings from the word go while their rivals mostly defended.

Results: Group C: Hebbal: 10 (Udity G 18th, 29th, 62nd, Aswin Chakravarthy 24th, 48th, Vishal Villa 47th, 79th, Mohammed Ameenuddin 53rd, 67th, Mohammed Abrahim Ahmed 64th) bt Yelahanka: 0. **Group D:** KR Pura: 3 (Steve Mathew 28th, Punith M 62nd, Tejas 84th) bt Yeshwanthpur: 0.

Priyanka bags another gold

Unnathi races to medals in women's 60m & 400m

BENGALURU, DHNS

In another medal-laden day for Karnataka, distance runner Priyanka C bagged her second gold while sprinter Unnathi Aiyappa claimed a silver and a bronze on the final day of the inaugural National Indoor Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday.

Priyanka, who won the women's 3000m gold on the opening day, ran alone in her forte 1500m event and finished the race at 4:34.31 seconds. The two gold medals are the 22-year-old's best-ever result at the senior level as the Mandya-born girl, whose father is a daily labourer in her hometown, bagged her first set of medals since she started competing in the category last season.

Priyanka, who trains under OP Jaisha at the NCOE Bengaluru, is aiming to compete in the Asian U-23 Athletics Championships in China in July.

Meanwhile, the 20-year-old Unnathi (7.46) settled for silver in a photo finish with the winner Harita Bhadra of Maharashtra (7.32) in the women's 60m dash. The silver came after Unnathi made her maiden appearance in the 400m flat for a bronze at 56.45 seconds as UP's Kumari Saloni Nagar dominated the event at 53.73.

The day also saw men's 60m sprinter Gurindervir Singh (Reliance) and pole vaulter Reegan G (Tamil Nadu) set national records in their respective events.

Results: Men: 60m: Gurindervir Singh (Rel) NR: 6.60s, 1; Lalu Prasad Bhoi (Odi) 6.65, 2; Nuzrat (Har) 6.71, 3. **400m:** Mohammed Sinan (Rel) 48.27, 1; Muhammed Badusha (BSF) 49.83, 2; Aryan Ekka (Odi) 49.86, 3.
1500m: Vinod Singh (MP) 3:46.13, 1; Jagdish (IAF) 3:50.11, 2; Sunil Yadav (Raj) 3:50.56, 3. **Pole vault:** Reegan G (TN) NR: 5.30m, 1; Rambeer Singh (Arm) 4.85, 2; Bineesh Jacob (Rai) 4.55, 3. **Triple jump:** Vimal MT (Nav) 15.41, 1; Robinson S (TN) 14.67, 2; Naresh Rohidas (Odi) 13.92, 3.
U-20: 60m: Kshitij Changire (Mah) 6.78s, 1; Rushiraj Sinh Gohil (Guj) 6.87, 2; Abhay Singh (Rel) 6.88, 3. **400m:** Umesh Sahani (UP) 49.14, 1; Bapi Hansda (Odi) 49.27, 2; Pradeep Mane (Mah) 51.66, 3.
3000m: Dolamani Chirgun (Odi) 8:39.13, 1; Bitto Joseph (Ker) 8:40.32, 2; Ajay (UP) 8:41.02.
Women: 60m: Harita Bhadra (Mah) 7.32s, 1; Unnathi Aiyappa (Kar) 7.46, 2; Trisha Nair (Mah) 7.62, 3. **400m:** Kumari Saloni Nagar (UP) 53.73, 1; Sukhi Baskey (Odi) 55.67, 2; Unnathi Bollanda (Kar) 56.45. 3.
1500m: Priyanka C (Kar) 4:34.31, 1. **Triple jump:** Mallala Anusha (JSW) 13.20m, 1; Nimisha Dayma (JSW) 12.93, 2; Bhairabi Roy (WB) 12.81, 3. **High jump:** Payal Jamod (Guj) 1.71, 1; Kevinaa Ashwine Anna (TN) 1.71, 2; Pramilla Rajgar (WB) 1.68, 3.
U-20: 60m: Kajal Vaja (Guj) 7.50s, 1; Mansi Rajak (MP) 7.55, 2; Heeral Johri (MP) 7.75, 3. **400m:** Sai Chintanna (TN) 59.96, 1; Arpita Priyadarsini (Odi) 1:00.48, 2.
3000m: Dipika Sharma (MP) 9:56.74, 1; Priti Chouhan (MP) 10:02.81, 2; Sonika Rajwade (Chh) 10:07.75. **High jump:** Arpita Sarkar (WB) 1.68m, 1; Juin Mantusa (WB) 1.60, 2; Anrisha Klein (Meg) 1.60, 3.

Karnataka's Unnathi Aiyappa (centre) won the silver medal in the women's 60m at the National Indoor Athletics C'ships in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. ODISHA SPORTS

Italy hoping to end World Cup pain as play-offs loom

MILAN, AFP

Italy are hoping to end a 12-year absence from the World Cup as one of the planet's most important footballing nations heads to the qualifying play-offs in the midst of another identity crisis.

Northern Ireland come to Bergamo for what promises to be a tense semi-final on Thursday as Italy desperately try to not miss a third consecutive World Cup.

Gennaro Gattuso coached Italy to second in qualifying Group I and has obtained some stability for the Azzurri following the sacking of the volatile Luciano Spalletti.

But two heavy defeats dished out by group winners Norway were a stark reminder of how far the national team has fallen since last winning the World Cup 20 years ago -- with Gattuso in midfield.

Since then fallen giants Italy haven't played a knockout match in a World Cup finals, dumped out in the group stage as defending champions in 2010 and four years later, before failing to even reach the last two editions in Russia and Qatar.

Both of those qualification failures came via the play-offs and were deeply traumatic events to a footballing hotbed which has lost its self-esteem while rival nations like France and Spain have flourished.

Italy coach Gennaro Gattuso hopes to end former champions' exile from the World Cup finals when the qualifying play-offs commence on Thursday. REUTERS

The poor performance of Italy's clubs in this season's Champions League has only exacerbated a feeling of being left behind, to the point that missing this year's finals in the USA, Canada and Mexico would be seen almost as a death knell.

"I really hope with all my heart that we can reach this goal, this group of players deserves it," Gattuso told reporters on Monday. "We can't stress the lads, they're well aware of what the stakes are. There will obviously be a bit of tension but we have to make sure we trasmit positivity."

Gattuso has to deal not just with the pressure of the occasion but also a clutch of injuries which threaten to leave him without several important players for what he hopes will be two matches.

One of Wales or Bosnia-Herzegovina await Italy in the final should they get past Northern Ireland as expected.

Sublime Sinner saunters into quarterfinals

MIAMI, AFP

Jannik Sinner powered into the Miami Open quarterfinals on Tuesday, defeating unseeded American Alex Michelsen in straight sets to stay on course for the "Sunshine Double".

Italian second seed Sinner, who is bidding to follow up his triumph at Indian Wells with victory in Miami, bided his time before completing a 7-5, 7-6 (7/4) win in 1hr 41min.

The four-time Grand Slam champion, who will face 19th seed Frances Tiafoe in the last eight, was made to work hard by the 40th-ranked Michelsen.

Home hope Tiafoe advanced to his quarter-final date with Sinner after battling past France's Terence Atmane 6-4, 1-6, 6-4. Spanish qualifier Martin Landaluce, ranked 151st in the world, upset American 32nd seed Sebastian Korda to score a 2-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 victory.

Coco Gauff

Korda, who had beaten world No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz in the previous round, had a match point late in the second set, but Landaluce survived to set up a quarterfinal against Czech 21st seed Jiri Lehecka.

Lehecka booked his place in the quarterfinals by ousting sixth seed Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2 in 2hr 25min.

American 22nd seed Tommy Paul set up a quarter-final against France's Arthur Fils after cruising past Argentina's Tomas Etcheverry 6-1, 6-3.

Coco Gauff battled past Belinda Bencic to reach the semifinals with a gruelling 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 victory. Fourth seed Gauff had considered skipping Miami after being forced to pull out during the fourth round at Indian Wells with a left-arm injury.

Rohan Bopanna

'Excited to guide DK, other youngsters'

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Grand Slam champ and former doubles world No. 1 Rohan Bopanna has been busy dedicating most of his time post retirement to impart knowledge and hone Gen Next skills. With a team of coaches and support staff at the Rohan Bopanna Tennis Academy (RBTA) here, the 46-year-old is already seeing progress of their effort.

While Vaishnavi Adkar bagged two ITF titles recently after the 21-year-old moved to RBTA in December last year, India's latest men's tennis sensation -- Dhakshineswar Suresh -- will be shifting his training base to the academy after completeing his studies at the Wake Forest University in the USA this May.

"Her game still has so much more potential to grow. Also, coach Balachandran has been working relentlessly to help her improve at the academy," said Bopanna while speaking to select reporters during a promotional event by ASICS in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

About Davis Cup hero Suresh's decision to make RBTA his training base, Bopanna said: "I want them to have a good structured programme in India. It's good we will be having DK here so we can monitor and guide him in everything. This, of course, between the 30 weeks he will be travelling once he gets onto the pro tour."

Gill, Sudharsan and Buttler's forms will be crucial to the 2022 champions

TITANS BANKING BIG on the tried & tested

GT skipper Shubman Gill has a healthy variety in his bowling attack with pacers Mohammed Siraj (right) and Prasidh Krishna (second from right) and spinner Rashid Khan (centre) among others.

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

In sports, there are generally two kinds — Ones who embrace flamboyance to get their job done and the other whose efficacy shines brighter than their elegance. Gujarat Titans, who won the IPL title on their debut in 2022 and finished runners-up the ensuing year, belong to the second type. And by the looks of it, there won't be any change in their approach.

Unlike several teams who have loaded their squads with power hitters as T20s embrace the era of hell for leather style, Gujarat Titans have stuck with good, clean strikers at the top and middle with just a couple of belters down the order — a throwback to the times not too old. Well, when it has worked for them, why change it?

So, just like last season, the Titans will be banking on their top three comprising skipper Shubman Gill, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler to lay the foundation and the rest to build on it as they chase a second title. Gill and Sudharsan aren't outrageous smashers like compatriots Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan or Sanju Samson, but they have been immensely successful at their job. They are somewhat old school where they take their time to settle down before playing the big shots, and it has worked exceptionally well for them and GT.

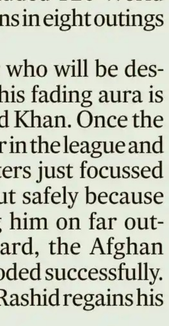
Last season, Sudharsan won the Orange Cap for most runs scored (759), which he did at a strike rate of 156.17. Gill was not too far behind with 650 runs at a strike rate of 155.87. They constantly got GT off to good starts with Sudharsan's exploits even earning him an India Test cap when they toured England a month later. Buttler, coming in at No. 3, ensured the momentum was maintained as he too featured in the top ten run-getters with 538 at a strike rate of 163.03.

Despite the calculated approach, GT breached 200 on eight occasions and scored 190s twice last season.

The worry for GT is that all three are chasing their own demons coming into IPL, and how they conquer them will have a bearing on the team's fortunes. Gill has lost his place in the Indian T20 set-up, and given the hyper-aggressive approach of this current crop, he'll be forced to redefine his style. Will he or won't he remains to be seen.

Sudharsan is on the brink of losing his place in the Test team following a series of poor scores, and although T20 is the exact opposite of red-ball cricket, he really needs another strong season to stay relevant. Same with Buttler, who had a harrowing time in the recently concluded T20 World Cup with just 87 runs in eight outings for England.

> I don't think there's a need to think differently this season. In fact, I don't have to think, the players do. They have to think. They have to play; I'm sitting outside."
> **Ashish Nehra,** Head Coach



Another player who will be desperate to restore his fading aura is leg-spinner Rashid Khan. Once the most feared bowler in the league and world, where batters just focussed on playing him out safely because the risk of taking him on far outweighed the reward, the Afghan has now been decoded successfully. GT will be hoping Rashid regains his potency.

Having said that, GT have one of the strongest bowling attacks among all teams. Their pace attack comprises the bruising Kagiso Rabada, last season's Purple Cap winner Prasidh Krishna, and T20 World Cup winner and the whole-hearted Mohammed Siraj. They even have Sai Kishore and Washington Sundar as strong spin partners for Rashid. Add all-rounders Jason Holder and Glenn Phillips, the depth is solid. In essence, they've got all bases covered. If all the forces combine, then GT could be hard to contain.

Squad: Shubman Gill (capt), Jos Butler, Kumar Kushagra, Anuj Rawat, Tom Banton, Glenn Phillips, Nishant Sindhu, Washington Sundar, Mohd Arshad Khan, Sai Kishore, Jayant Yadav, Jason Holder, Sai Sudharsan, Shahrukh Khan, Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Manav Suthar, Gurnoor Singh Brar, Ishant Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Prithvi Raj Yarra, Luke Wood, Rahul Tewatia, Rashid Khan.
Best finish: Champions (2022).

IPL 2026
2 days to go

Sai Sudharsan

Majority of captains against Impact Player rule

NEW DELHI, PTI: A majority of IPL captains on Wednesday expressed their reservations on the Impact Player rule that has divided opinions since its introduction in 2023.

In 2024, the BCCI had extended the Impact Player in the IPL until at least 2027. Yet, the strategic rule continues to be debated by fans and players alike.

In the IPL Captains Meeting in Mumbai, the topic was discussed at length by the leaders of all 10 franchises.

"Majority of the captains gave their inputs on the Impact Player rule and expressed their reservations even though the BCCI has extended the rule till 2027. They were told it can only be reviewed after the 2027 edition and not before that," an IPL source said.

Saini joins KKR

Pacer Navdeep Saini on Wednesday replaced Harshit Rana in the Kolkata Knight Riders squad for the IPL beginning on March 28.

Kulwant Khejroliya replaces Prithviraj Yarra in the Gujarat Titans squad. He will join for Rs 30 lakh.

Rana underwent a knee surgery last month that ruled him out of the T20 World Cup. Saini has scalped 23 wickets in 32 IPL matches played so far, in addition to 23 wickets in international cricket for India. He will join KKR for Rs 75 Lakh.

Esterhuizen stars in SA's series win

CHRISTCHURCH, REUTERS: Connor Esterhuizen's knock of 75 off 33 balls helped South Africa secure a 33-run win over New Zealand on Wednesday, clinching a comeback 3-2 victory in their five-match T20 series after New Zealand had taken a 2-1 lead last week.

Esterhuizen, who made his international debut earlier in the series, rekindled South Africa's innings after a muted start to help them post 187-4 in Christchurch, before two-wicket hauls from Gerald Coetzee, Wiaan Mulder and Ottniel Baartman restricted New Zealand to 154-8.

Brief scores: South Africa: 187/4 in 20 overs (Wiaan Mulder 31, Rubin Hermann 39, Connor Esterhuizen 75; Ben Sears 2-37) bt New Zealand: 154/8 in 20 overs (Tim Robinson 25, Bevon Jacobs 36; Gerald Coetzee 2-21, Wiaan Mulder 2-28, Ottneil Baartman 2-33).
Result: South Africa won 5-match series 3-2.
PoM & PoS: Connor Esterhuizen.

GRANT CONUNDRUM

Was money credited to athletes without releasing official list?

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Two days after one of India's top female sprinters Sneha SS and her state-mate and 400m hurdler Yashas P made their displeasure public for being ignored for Karnataka government's 'Target Olympic Medal' scheme, it has come to light that the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES) are yet to release the official list of the 60 sportspersons identified for the project.

When Chief Minister Siddaramaiah-led state government launched the scheme last year to support deserving Karnataka athletes in their endeavour to qualify for the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, the DYES were to invite applications and identify 60 candidates who would be eligible for Rs 10 lakh each every year for three straight years.

However, the disgruntled athletes claim that their multiple requests for the list to verify the names of the selected athletes and the reason for their exclusion have fallen on deaf ears.

Furthermore, there is no information about the names of the members who were part of the committee responsible for going through all the applications and finalising the list of eligible athletes across sports for the scheme.

Releasing lakhs of amount granted to athletes without providing the final official list raises serious questions over the functioning of the DYES.

DH contacted Chethan R, commissioner DYES and Naveen Raj Singh, principal secretary to government -- helming the state's sports body -- but they refused to offer any clarification on the matter, citing their current engagements. Chethan, an IPS officer, said he was busy with election duty in West Bengal while Naveen, an IAS officer, said he was caught up with work at the ongoing state assembly session in Vidhana Soudha, respectively.

Karnataka swimmers dominate at Tribal Games

BENGALURU, DHNS

Dhoneesh N clinched the opening gold while Manikanta L and Mehanjali topped the podium twice each later in the day as Karnataka swimmers dominated the proceedings at the inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games in Raipur on Wednesday.

Competing in the in the men's 200m freestyle event, Dhoneesh clocked 2:03.55s, almost seven seconds faster than state-mate Keerthan Sharat (2:10.99s) who finished second. Maharashtra's Bhaktish Kumre took the bronze medal with a time of 2:14.73s.

Karnataka's Mehanjali en route to gold in the women's 100m breaststroke at the Khelo India Tribal Games in Raipur. SAI

Karnataka won five of the six gold medals on offer, clearly establishing the gulf in the quality between them and the rest.

While Manikanta grabbed double gold by topping the men's 100m breaststroke and 50m butterfly, repectively, his state-mate Mehanjali touched the pad first in the corresponding women's races.

Nidhi S added a silver to the state's tally by finishing second in the women's 200m freestyle.

Results: Swimming: Men: 200m Freestyle: Dhoneesh N (Kar) 2:03.55s, 1; Keerthan Sharat (Kar) 2:10.99s, 2; Bhaktish Kumre (Mah) 2:14.73s, 3.
100m Breaststroke: Manikanta L (Kar) 1:07.41s, 1; Palash Manoj Thakur (Mah) 1:11.69s, 2; Nikhil Xalco (Cht) 1:11.77s, 3.
50m Butterfly: Manikanta L (Kar) 27.06s, 1; Firmino Emon Lalung (Asm) 27.69s, 2; Riyaj Tripura (Tri) 28.48s, 3.
Women: 200m Freestyle: Anjali Munda (Odi) 2:39.02s, 1; Nidhi S (Kar) 2:39.09s, 2; Sriya Padiami (Odi) 2:49.04s, 3.
100m Breaststroke: Mehanjali (Kar) 1:25.81s, 1; Anushka Bhagat (Cht) 1:29.10s, 3; Rinky Murmu (Odi) 1:34.70s, 3.
50m Butterfly: Mehanjali (Kar) 34.67s, 1; Tiluttam Jamatia (Tri) 34.85s, 2; Ritika Minz (Odi) 35.54s, 3.

Nepal-born Bharti joins Indian camp

NEW DELHI, PTI: Nepal-born defender Abneet Bharti has joined the Indian senior men's team camp in Kochi ahead of the AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Hong Kong, the AIFF said on Wednesday.

The development comes a day after Ryan Williams was named in the squad for the same fixture.

As things stand, India now have two foreign-based players in the camp for the first time -- 27-year-old defender Bharti and 32-year-old winger Williams who recently obtained his Indian passport.

Williams had missed the Bangladesh match as his FIFA clearance arrived late and the Bengaluru FC player is now set for his much-anticipated India debut against Hong Kong on March 31.

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